

WEAR IT, SHARE IT, FORGET IT THE NEXT-GEN OF WEARABLE TECH

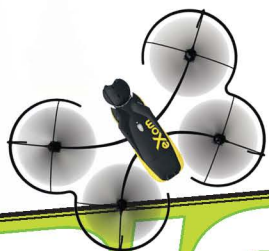
₹100 April 2015

stuff.tv/in



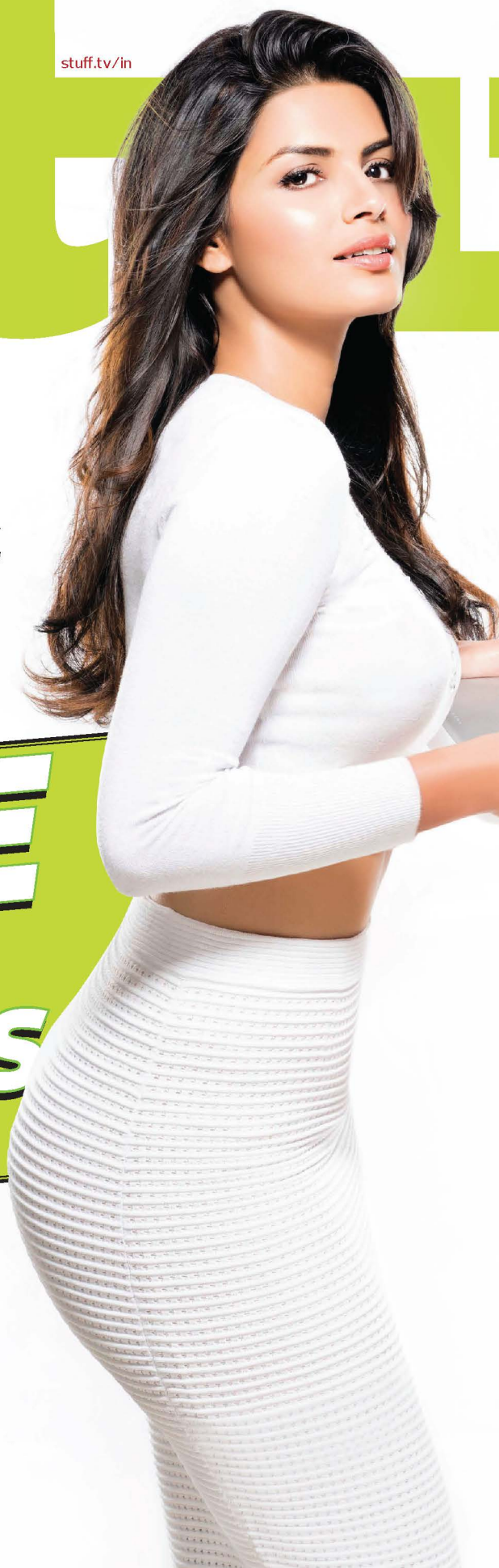
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RISE OF THE DRONES

From delivering your groceries to sniping. This is the new army!



India



SLICED APPLE

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MacBook breaks cover



DJI
INSPIRE 1
P46

PRIMO VINO

How the nectar of the Gods
is made by mere mortals...



SMART STARS

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Samsung, Saygus and more



BEYOND 4K?

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ONE LOOK

IS ALL IT TAKES

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WELCOME



Shaping not just us but also the world around us, the Internet of Things is fast becoming all pervasive. Two of the early crash-test dummies for IoT have been fitness bands and drones. We look at both of these categories closely in this issue and unravel some hidden gems and public secrets, much to our own surprise too! **Drones** will soon be used for more than just indulgent flight footage of your dog doing his business - see p44. In fact, its usage for medical emergencies and the logistics business is being explored even as you read this, and is potentially a gold mine for investors. Similarly, on p82, you'll see how **wearables** are now migrating from your wrists and on to your chest, waist and even feet. Robocop will soon cease to be a fictional character by the way we're living!

Pompously called the **Mobile World Congress (MWC)**, this Spanish gathering of the biggest telecom brands in the world has evolved from catering to just phone fiends to something for everyone. Our team scours the halls and reports back with some of the best bits on p74. Get your hands dirty, go on. Just don't forget that smartwatch first.

Nishant Padhiar, Editor / nishant@haymarketsac.com / twitter.com/nishantpadhiar

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OUR LOGOS EXPLAINED...

The bearer of this accolade has gone up against its peer(s) and emerged victorious.



A gadget sporting this badge is a five-star product, and the one we would buy, if we were us.



...and a word about prices

Generally, we show the manufacturer's recommended price. Two exceptions:

- **Asterisk marked prices (*)** are indicative prices and subject to change depending on geographic location.
- All prices in the **Top 10s** are the best we could find at the time of printing.

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This magazine contains 116 pages including both covers

haymarket

Turbo Charge Your Life!



| **moto** turbo

There's nothing ordinary about the new Moto Turbo. With its sleek design, unbelievable battery life and many other unique features, Moto Turbo is designed to keep pace with you. When you're out there, taking on the world, one day at a time. When you believe in being second to none, in a life of no compromises. Moto Turbo, here to maximise and charge your life.

FEATURES

Power through and through

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Go one full day without stopping to recharge.

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Accelerated performance

QUAD HD. FOUR TIMES THE VIEW

Stunning 1440p Quad HD display-four times the resolution of HD and an incredibly high pixel density of 565ppi. All in a pocket-friendly 5.2" design.

OUTPERFORM YOUR EXPECTATIONS

New 2.7 GHz Qualcomm® Snapdragon™ 805 quad core processor.

Noise cancellation

Eliminates background noise, improving both call quality and voice recognition.

21MP Camera

4K VIDEO CAPTURE AND PLAYBACK

QUICK CAPTURE

HIGHLIGHT REEL

DUAL LED FLASH



SPECIFICATIONS

Display

5.2" (565 ppi) 1440x2560 Quad HD
Corning Gorilla Glass 3

Camera

Rear: 21MP with dual flash
Front: 2MP (1080p)

Processor

Qualcomm Snapdragon 805
2.7GHz quad-core CPU
Adreno 420 @ 600 MHz GPU

RAM

3GB RAM (LPDDR3 with 64-bit access)

Storage

64GB / 32GB

Battery
3,900 mAh

Maximum performance without limits

Introducing the new **Moto Turbo**, a premium smartphone with unbelievably long battery life and many other never-before-seen features.



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04.15

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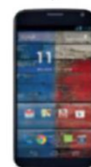
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TOP 10 OF EVERYTHING

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Motorola Moto X

★★★★★
Our favourite Android... for now
p102

TABLETS



Apple iPad Air 2

★★★★★
Unrelenting chart-topper
p103

HI-FI



Monitor Audio Airstream 200

★★★★★
Bargain brilliance
p105



H O T S T

HOT
FOUR
#1

ONE BLING TO RULE THEM ALL HTC One M9

While plastic is fantastic (we are looking at you, Lumia 640XL), there is something about metals that gets us all dreamy eyed. The new M9 is the latest smartphone that's got our pulses racing with its dual-tone metal finish and a body that is sculpted to near perfection. The new One has a 4.1MP Ultrapixel front-facing camera – all the better for low-light selfies – while the main camera offers 20.7 million standard pixels. A Sapphire glass cover protects the lens and the body itself is scratch-resistant. There's a 64-bit Snapdragon 810 and 3GB RAM humming away inside, which means you can have more apps open than you require as you show off 4K video recording on the M9, while buffering Full HD video in the background.

As hot as... your denim hot pants
₹tba / htc.com



U

F

F

25 PAGES
OF THE BIGGEST
STORIES FROM
PLANET TECH



MWC 2015
Best Smartphones



Hands-on
with the
HTC One M9
**YATISH
SUVARNA**
@yatish_suvarna



Talk design, and the M8 was one of my favourite phones. It only came second to the iPhone 6. With the new M9, HTC has designed a phone that feels even more solid, grippier and classier. So what's new?

Apart from the beefier internals which come in the form of a new Snapdragon 810 processor and 3 gigs of RAM, the biggest upgrade is the 20MP rear and the 4MP front Ultrapixel camera. The

spec bump hasn't yet blown my mind completely; only a full test will reveal the gory details. The rear camera loses the Duolens feature that was found on the M8. Do I miss it? Absolutely not. One of the things that does impress straightaway is the image quality of the front camera, which is fantastic. Selfie fanatics will appreciate the vibrant colour details and crisp image quality.

Another major change, and one that is bound to help, is the placement of the power

and volume buttons which have now been moved south. Great news for the smaller-palmed mortals among us.

The bit I didn't like about the phone? The way the 3.5mm slot almost cut into its rear.

Overall, the dual-tone bling exterior makes the M9 a head turner and the fact that it will be offered in pink should garner a considerable amount of feline interest. With that said, at MWC, it was the men who appeared more eager to get their dirty little paws on one.

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NP7550

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Preventive Cover Case

Soft covers available separately in variety of colors.





HOT
FOUR
#2

EDGE OF TOMORROW

**Samsung Galaxy
S6&S6 Edge**

There's something about edges. We use some to trim our beards to perfection, while the others help us slice lemons into perfect halves to be squeezed on to -be-slow-cooked chicken marinade. Samsung was paying attention, which is why it will let you check notifications or identify who is calling you via the edges of its new S6 Edge. The other S6 is the exact same phone without the gorgeous glass edges hugging its frame. Both phones offer a staggering good, 577ppi screen that's pure candy for the visual senses. And for the very first time, a Samsung device feels solidly built, with so much love that you would want to cuddle it all day long. Oh, we also love the 16MP rear cam with optical image stabilization.

Go on, live your life on the edge.

Ashot as... Emily Blunt kicking alien butt
from ₹49,900 / samsung.com/in

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Best Smartphones



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HOT
FOUR
#3

SAY MY NAME

Saygus V2

Biometric fingerprint side scanner? Check. 64GB internal memory? Check. Dual MicroSD slots? Check. 21MP rear and 13MP front cameras with optical image stabilization? Check. 3100mAh battery? Check. Wireless charging? Check. OK, what are we on to here? The picture on the right tells our brain it is a phone. But the specs above has us thinking nay. Believe it or not, the Saygus V2 is very much a real device that is aimed at offering you everything you could hope for in a smartphone. No, built-in cookie dispenser does not count!

As hot as... Delhi, today
₹tba / saygus.com

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HOT
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#4

ROOMIER LUMIA Microsoft Lumia 640XL

Eventually, evolution will play its trick and our palms and fingers will be humongous enough to accommodate large phablet-sized excuses for smartphones. Eventually, bacon will grow on trees. We digress. The point we are trying to make here is that there is no running away from huge phones that promise the world. Take this new Lumia as an example. It behaves all classy and chic with its un-cheap plastic exterior and a promise that buyers will be able to upgrade to Windows 10 when it launches, for free. A 13MP snapper on the rear and a 5MP on the front take care of your landscape and selfie cravings. There is a 3000mAh battery inside that promises up to 23.7 hours of talk time. The 5.7in screen offers a pixel density of only 259ppi, but then, it is not like Microsoft is asking you to pay 15K for it. Will you, Microsoft? Will you?

Ashotas... the upcoming season of *Game Of Thrones*

₹tba / microsoft.com

MWC 2015
Best Smartphones

G I G A P I X E L

The bigger picture in tech



LAPKA OPENS A NEW ERA FOR ARA

Project Ara is a smartphone recently imagineered by Google with interchangeable modules including batteries, cameras and memory. It was reimagineered by us in last October's issue with a shaver head, a Geiger counter and an airbag. And now, it's been more sensibly imagined again — despite the strange colour scheme — as a multi-talented tool for health professionals. Lapka's version includes sensors for air quality, CO₂, blood glucose levels, UV light and heart rate. It also has a breathalyser module (pictured above), all of which might make it more of a developed-world tool.





NEWS FEED



REAL ESTATE JUST WENT REAL VIRTUAL

Commonfloor.com now allows prospective buyers to view/review/assess multiple properties via its app in virtual reality, from anywhere, and at any time. Just load the Android app and place the smartphone in the ₹999 headgear (in pic) to do so. Easy-peasy.



GIZMOBABA SNIFF'S OUT THE GAS (LEAK)

When something's strange, it smells in the hood. Who you gonna call? Gizmobaba! Better yet, open the windows and let the gas escape. Puns aside, the ₹2000 'LPG, CNG and Cooking Gas Alarm Gadget' does exactly what it sounds like. Electronic nose, FTW please!



"OEM BE DAMNED" - GADGETWOOD

That's Original Equipment Manufacturer warranty, which does not cover physical and moisture-related damage. Extend your smartphone's warranty by two years, and cover the above-mentioned damage, courtesy Gadgetwood's Complete Care Plan.

Multi-role combat DELL INSPIRON 2-IN-1

Poor laptops. Smartphones and tablets seem to be getting all the attention these days. But looks like the Dell Inspiron 2-in-1 series has something to say about this. Available in 11- and 13in form factors, with Intel's 4th and 5th generation Core processors sitting inside, these things do pack quite a punch. Still not convinced the laptop can fight back? How about the option of a Full HD screen? And if that's still not enough, wait till the new boys unleash their real secret weapon – the hinge design that lets 'em switch between laptop, easel, tent, and tablet modes.

from ₹33,990 / dell.com/in



Transform your game MAD CATZ LYNX3

Your shiny phone has console-quality games now, but you still play by prodding the screen with your giant neanderthal hands. Mad Catz wants to change that with its nifty mobile wireless controller. The LYNX3 is the cheap little brother of the legendary LYNX9. And like most insecure smaller siblings, it tries hard to live up to the family name. It packs 30 hours of play-time and looks like a Decepticon from Michael Bay's next *Transformers* movie. What's not to like?

₹tba / madcatz.com



New land, ahoy! AOC M601

Smartphones and tablets are the new frontier, believes AOC. The M601 is part of the smartphones and tablets launched to mark its entry in the said direction. And so you have a 1.3GHz Dual Core chipset, Android KitKat handset with 512MB RAM and 8GB memory. Slap over a 6in display, 5MP rear camera and 2100mAh battery plus a bag of goodies for your perusal, on purchase make it a smart foray into the realm.

₹7990 / aocindia.com

snapdeal

PRESENTS

THE SUMMER OF GAMING

Stay cool this summer with snapdeal's scorchingly hot collection of gaming gear



Beat the summer blues with this awesome collection of the hottest gaming gear in the world, from console exclusives to speedy upgrade solutions for your gaming rig. Only on snapdeal !

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INDIA'S LARGEST ONLINE ELECTRONICS STORE

The perfect game

Summer might be a pain, but snapdeal's got the perfect home remedy to beat the heat. A next-generation console. Screamingly fast and remarkably versatile. Isn't this the perfect way to spend summer?

PlayStation 4 or Xbox?

The real question of life, the universe, and everything – which of these two consoles to buy? The Xbox One is no slouch, and is definitely gonna keep you happy. But good as it is, the PlayStation 4 is even better – easily the most powerful thanks to its better graphics performance. Yup, if you want the meanest, fastest console, it has to be the PS4!



Sony PlayStation 4 The speed zone

Welcome to the speed zone. No limits, no speed bumps, and no slowdowns. 'Cos with almost 2 teraflops of power under the hood, the PS4 just can't be stopped.

Legendary games that'll keep you going through summer

CS: GLOBAL OFFENSIVE



CounterStrike. The name is enough. Rarely has a gaming title garnered such a fan following. Fire up your DSL connection,

choose your weapons, get your pals to join your team, and get set for the most exciting summer ever.

FIFA 2015



Yeah, it's nice watching football on the telly. But wouldn't you rather help your favourite club pummel their rivals? Seriously, dude, you're not

a real footie fan unless you've got FIFA 2015. You know, we'd take this over the Champions League any day!

HALO 3



Calling all troops. Master Chief needs you! The third instalment in the legendary series that made the Xbox such a star, Halo 3 sees you join the

struggle against the Covenant. What are you waiting for? The fate of humanity depends upon you!

THE LAST OF US



Things aren't always as seem in this award winning title. As civilisation crumbles around you, can you step up and fight for your survival?

A must for anyone who cares about a gripping storyline and interesting characters that you can really root for.



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Upgrade your rig

Snapdeal's collection of gaming components is just what you need when the heat's on outside and your old gaming rig just doesn't seem all that cool anymore



Zotac Nvidia GeForce GTX 960 Medicine for the gamer

The latest games not playing as smooth as you'd like them to? The Zotac GTX960, with its 2GB of DDR5 RAM, will just pummel them into submission. Sweet medicine indeed!



Corsair VS 650 SMPS Defender of the faith

With a dedicated +12V rail to guarantee reliability, a thermally controlled 120mm fan to keep things cool, and voltage protection for peace of mind, the VS650 power supply keeps your upgraded rig safe through anything.



Cooler Master Elite 431 A window to your soul

Beauty's more than skin deep with the Elite 431. Plenty of expansion bays, a versatile front I/O panel, a ventilated mesh design, and a side window make this the ultimate (and hottest looking) tower for your gaming rig.



Dell 24 Inch Full HD LED Monitor Widen your horizons

The 8,000,000:1 dynamic contrast ratio amps up the atmosphere while the Full HD, widescreen LED panel makes games so lifelike you'll find your pulse racing each time you turn it on.



Seagate 1TB Internal Drive The Big Boss

You can never have too many games. And that's why real gamers love this 1TB hard disk - there's enough space to pack in all your favourite stuff - with all the extreme mods, downloadable content and expansion packs you love.



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Next-level accessories

So you've already got a speedy console or a killer PC? Head straight to the final level with snapdeal's awesome collection of the world's coolest gaming accessories



Cooler Master Rapid I Keyboard K is for killer instinct

Cherry MX mechanical keys that'll keep going no matter how intense your gaming sessions, ActivLite reactive lighting, LED backlighting, and profile management all set the Rapid I apart as a killer keyboard.



Razer Abyssus 2014 Gaming Mouse Lefty - Righty

The 3500 dpi optical sensor and 3 programmable Hypersonic buttons will make you the fastest shot around. But there's yet more good news for the southpaw gamer - the Abyssus is a proper ambidextrous mouse. Perfect, isn't it?



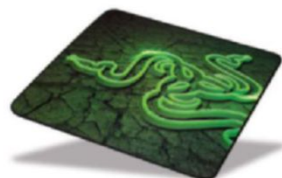
Thrustmaster GP XID Revenge of the PC

Who says console gamers get to have all the fun? The GP XID's progressive triggers, 12 digital action buttons, and D-pad will make fans of action, sports, and racing titles kiss their PC in joy!



Gunnar Advanced Gaming Eyewear In your sights

Gaming marathons just became a lot more fun with this set of eyewear. Say goodbye to eye strain and fatigue thanks to its patented lens technology. Hmmm. Who wants to attempt a 24-hour DOTA session?



Razer Goliathus Smooth move

A slick, seamless surface that ensures speedy movement and accurate tracking, and stays comfy even after hours shooting down your rivals. Do you still need more reasons to chuck out your raggedy, old mouse mat?



Amigo Gaming Controller Mobile mayhem

Aficionados of mobile gaming will love the Amigo. Dual shock capability, iOS and Android support, and Bluetooth wireless make it the ultimate gaming accessory when you're on the move.



SteelSeries Siberia RAW Prism The sound of war

It's devilishly good looking piece of kit, but there's a lot more to the RAW Prism - A supremely comfortable fit, breathable cushioning that stays cool, SteelSeries 3 Engine support for customised audio, and a wide, expansive soundstage. Gimme!



**GET EXTRA
5% OFF**

ON ALL
GAMING ACCESSORIES IN APRIL
PROMO CODE: STUFFGACPS

snapdeal

— iPad by iBall

IBALL BRACE X1 TABLET

iBall's approach to tablets is similar to a college student's approach to cooking. Let's throw everything in the pot and see what happens. The Brace X1 tablet is bursting with features. What features, you ask? Brace yourselves (sorry) – 10.1in display, 1.7GHz Octa Core processor, 2GB RAM, 3G, Dual SIM, voice calling, 7800mAh battery, 13MP rear camera, 5MP front camera, dual chambered speakers...

Phew. We were half expecting a Swiss knife and a lighter by the end of that list.

₹17,999 / iball.co.in



— Whippersnapper

INTEX AQUA SPEED

A 1.3GHz Quad Core chipset, 2Gb RAM with 16GB memory with 8MP and 3MP rear and front cameras – this seems like decent specs for a smartphone at the price. Backed by a 1700mAh battery and a promise of snappy speed is what awaits the owner of this smartphone from Intex. Though the 4.5in display might seem a tad on the humbler side, it'll appeal to those with a thing for smaller screens. A phone can only go as deep as the pockets. Remember, you read it here first. Yes, it makes sense.

₹7999 / ebay.in



— Run Boy Run

PUMA IGNITE

You've got fitness apps, a smart watch tracking your body, an ever tightening pair of jeans and a nagging significant other. What more do you need to motivate you to exercise? You know what, we aren't here to judge. Maybe you need something more. Allow us to extend an olive branch – the Puma Ignite. The Ignite collection draws inspiration from the colours, speed and shape of a comet, no less. You'll be wheezing and sweating as you stumble towards the finish line, but at least you'll look good doing it.

₹8999 / puma.com

LG TECH SHOW 2015

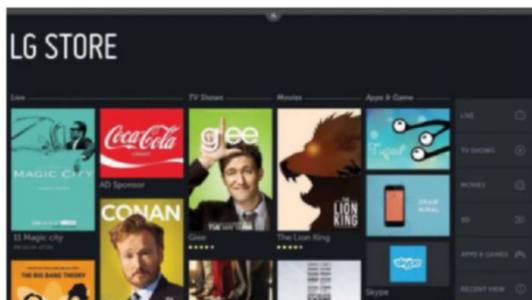
'Tis the season of cool new stuff indeed. So what have the folks at LG got in store for us this spring? Plenty, as we found out at the LG Tech Show 2015...



Can't believe your eyes?

LG 105UC9T

Another TV, we hear you groan. Hang on, there's more to this telly than meets the eye. Quite literally, if you ask us. For one, this behemoth of a TV is a massive 105 inches across. Just how big is that? Probably big enough for you to need a Boeing just to cart it home. So, is there anything more to it than just size, we hear you AV snobs sniff... How about 5K resolution? Yup, the 105UC9T is the world's first 5K TV. We don't have enough space to list out all the other goodies you get, but here's a rather short list: Built-in 8MP camera, 150W RMS audio, a 7.2 Harmon / Kardon sound system, Miracast, wireless sound sync, Web OS 2.0, 4K 3D upscaling... Oh, you want to know the price? Start encashing all yer fixed deposits, 'cos this baby costs a sweet ₹59,99,900!



Smarter than your Smart TV?

WEB OS 2.0

Here it is, with a '2.0' suffix tacked on, LG's Web OS 2.0. Coming soon to a new Smart TV near you, this is the latest version of Web OS, perhaps the only OS that's built from the ground-up for your Smart TV. It's faster, more responsive, offers plenty of customisation options, and overall, seems rather intuitive and slick to use. Smart indeed. Who said our favourite hobby of lounging about on a sofa and watching TV all day makes you dumb?

Keepin' with the times LG WATCH URBANE

You know what the problem with smart watches is? They just don't look, well, urbane. But LG seems to have heard our threats to call the fashion police on any more smart watches that looked like something out of a space-themed cartoon, and with the Watch Urbane, we reckon they've got the styling right. A clean, metal casing, with a classic leather strap? Very dapper. Just like the editors at your favourite magazine. Expect the Watch Urbane to hit the shelves in another month or so, with a price tag of around ₹30,000.



A proper leather strap and a real metal case? Very tasty!



Did you just hear a gamer faint? 21:9 ULTRA WIDE MONITOR

The wider the better, that's what our gamer pals say. If you agree, you're welcome to join them in swooning over LG's new 21:9 monitors. QHD resolution to make everything in your crosshairs look even sharper, 99% sRGB coverage from the IPS panel for all you artsy types, Thunderbolt 2 connectivity, and hey, you can even stack 'em up for a massive wall of monitors – a practice some describe as 'Nirvana'.

A pocket full of lollipops THE G FLEX2 AND ITS PALS

You might remember us raving about the G Flex2 back in March. Well, we got to spend some more time with this curvy phone, and you know what, we're even more in love with it. The 403ppi display is absolutely gorgeous and the 64-bit Snapdragon 810 inside just overpowers anything you chuck at it. Then there's a 13MP camera with OIS to help you get sharp-as-a-tack snaps and videos even at the end of a rather crazy pub crawl. But if the asking price of ₹55,000 is a bit too much, you might like to check out the midrange trio expected over the next few months – Spirit, Magna, and Leon.



ONE THIN MAC PLEASE

Apple MacBook (2015)

from ₹99,900 / apple.com/in

"Reinvention" might be pushing it, but the new Apple MacBook really does look like something simple, yet special

● Shut up and take my money. It looks beautiful!

Yes, it's beautiful, especially in the gold finish (it's also available in space grey and silver, of course), and that's largely due to its all-metal chassis and quite breathtaking slimness. This is just 13.1mm thick – 24% thinner than the existing MacBook Air – and it weighs only 2lbs. That's just 907g.

● Is the new keyboard fat-finger-friendly?

The keyboard has had some serious love. It's thinner, but full-size. In fact, each key has a 17% larger surface area. There's now a Butterfly mechanism that sees each button depress more uniformly. So, yes, the fat-fingered will be delighted.

● Tell me about the new port.

There's just one port on the new MacBook, and it's really rather amazing. The USB-C port combines DisplayPort, HDMI, VGA, USB and power in one. Best of all, it's been developed with a load of other manufacturers, so while the new MacBook is the first to get it, it's a new industry standard that should be widespread in mere months. Don't ask what happens if you accidentally break it.

● I want it now. What are my options?

The new MacBook will be available on April 10th. In terms of price, it doesn't seem outrageous. The cheaper of the two models is ₹99,900, which gets you a 1.1GHz dual-core Intel Core M, 8GB of RAM and a 256GB SSD. ₹1,19,900 doubles the storage and ups the processor to a 1.2GHz Intel Core M.

APPLE LOSES ITS FANS

While the new MacBook features a stunning 12in Retina display with a 16:10 aspect ratio and a resolution of 2304 x 1440, it also has gotten rid of its fans.

That's right, this is the first fanless MacBook and taking place of the fans are specially designed 'terraced' batteries.

THERE'S JUST
ONE PORT ON
THE NEW
MACBOOK,
AND IT'S AMAZING

The trackpad now features 'Taptic feedback' and 'Force Touch' tech, which basically means it can be clicked anywhere on its surface and will also respond to different degrees of pressure your dirty little paws might exert. The trackpad also enables a new gesture called Force Click, a click followed by a deeper press, for tasks like pulling up the definition of a word, quickly seeing a map or glancing at a preview of a file.

OLD BODYS NEW HEARTS



● I still like the Pro. That gets updates too, right?

Yes, the new MacBook Pro with Retina display comes with the all-new Force Touch trackpad, fifth generation Intel Core processors and Intel Iris Graphics 6100, two times faster flash and longer battery life. Prices for the MacBook Pro start at ₹94,900.



● There's good news for MacBook Air fans as well.

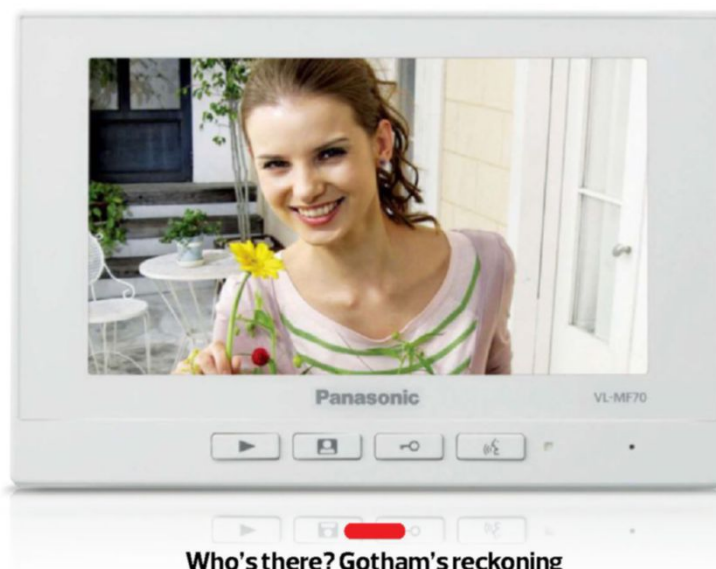
The updated 11in and 13in MacBook Air now feature fifth generation Intel Core processors up to 2.2 GHz, with Turbo Boost speeds up to 3.2 GHz, integrated Intel HD Graphics 6000, and Thunderbolt 2 that delivers up to 20Gbps bandwidth speeds. Prices for the new MacBook Air start at ₹65,900.



Window seat MICROSOFT LUMIA 532 AND LUMIA 435

Still not keen on apples and lollipops? If you find yourself the object of ridicule for dishing out so much for a window view, you've now got not one, but two options – the Microsoft Lumia 532 and Lumia 435. The former sports a 5MP camera, front-facing camera, 1GB RAM and a Quad Core processor; the latter a 2MP cam and dual-core processor. Both work on the latest Windows Phone 8.1 OS and Lumia Denim, look good and offer, yes, the Lumia Selfie app.

from ₹5999 / microsoft.com



Who's there? Gotham's reckoning PANASONIC WIRELESS VIDEO DOOR PHONE

Thud thud thud. Someone's knocking at this hour? Maybe it's one of your relatives. Or maybe it's an axe-murderer. Both options are equally terrifying. Worry not though you little scaredy cat, you. Panasonic has launched two video door phones – the VL-SF70BX (pictured) with a 7in display and the VL-SW251BX with a compact 5in display. The latter also has a flippin voice-changing option! You can press that button and sound like Bane to the people standing outside. If that doesn't convince you to get it, you have our permission to die.

from ₹18,500 / panasonic.com/in

Your wish is its command.



The Dell 2-in-1 series is a laptop, a tablet and whatever you want it to be.



It is a work of art.

Light in weight, yet heavy on sleekness and style, this machine is crafted to accompany you everywhere. At less than an inch thick, it also has 360° movement, allowing it to be used in whichever way is easiest. With an HD IPS touch display and stylus, it is convenience, portability and versatility, all packed into one elegant design.

It is a powerhouse.

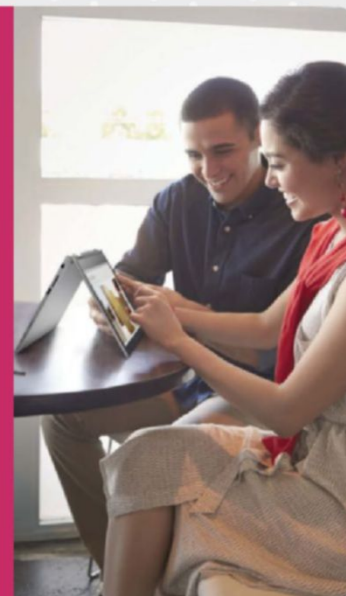
Backed by the reliable technology of Intel processors, it offers high speed and efficiency so you can rest assured of quality performance whether you're surfing the web, writing your essay or uploading photos. A 500GB hard drive means that there will never be a shortage of space, and 4GB memory keeps the multi-taskers happy, enabling multiple applications to run seamlessly at the same time. It also has about 8 hours of battery life, ensuring continuous, unmitigated power.

It's for everyone in the family.

Whether it's watching movies, following the recipe while cooking, making an office presentation outside work, doing the school project or taking pictures on the family vacation, the Inspiron 2-in-1 series has a classy, smart solution for everyone's needs. While it sits perfectly on a table, its easy switch-to-tablet functionality ensures that the Dell Inspiron 2-in-1 is just as comfortable in your shopping bag – making this tablet-laptop the ideal, multi-faceted companion for everyone in the family.

Work anywhere. Play anywhere.

With long-range WiFi with strong connectivity, and a high definition (720p) webcam that makes Skype and Google Hangouts almost life-like, the Inspiron 2-in-1 ensures that everything is nearby no matter where work takes you. It also comes with an extended battery life that is designed to withstand all-nighters, and Windows 8.1 to facilitate easy navigation. It has multiple ports that allows the Dell device to be easily connected via HDMI and linked with another monitor or TV. It also makes transferring of large files through its USB 3.0 port and SD media card reader a breeze. So now, take your office with you.



The Dell Inspiron 2-in-1 series is the best of both worlds. As perfect for the family as it is for the workaholic, it is the device that everyone will love.

↓ APPS

This month's mobile must-downloads



1 WifiCafe

₹free / Android

Imagine a world full of free Wi-Fi – it's easy if you try. It's even easier if you have this app, which points you to the nearest cafe/outlet that provides you that coveted password. Go on, see how long you can stretch a single non-steaming cup of coffee.

2 Red Bull Air Race

₹free / Android, iOS

Finally, Red Bull has given us wings. Well, at least in the virtual world. You fly through some of the cool destinations in the world and try and beat other Red Bull pilots. You get over 200 races that will test your pilot skills.

3 Masque

₹free / Android, iOS, Win

"We are finding a stranger for you." If you are not creeped out by that sentence, this app is totally for you. You put in your username (Batman) and you're good to go. The app will find strangers for you to chat with around your area.

4 Tambola

₹free / Android

Octro has decided to take away all the fun of the traditional house game by turning it into an app. There won't be any old uncles shouting "Murgi chor, number four" and no more poking holes in gawdy pink tickets. Thanks, Octro.

5 Fat Cat Gaming Lucky 6

₹free / Android

The concept is simple, download the game, select the six brands you believe will perform best based on the gain in their stock price and get ₹15 lacs if you're right. There are other prizes too.

6 Lebara

₹free / Android, iOS

This app is for those who love irritating people in foreign lands. You can call abroad at cheap rates without the need to change your SIM. You can check the rates before you call so that you don't get any nasty surprises.

7 Light Notebook

₹free / Android, iOS

This one seems like a classic attempt by the CIA to attain your data. All messages are organised into comments in notes and folders, instead of existing as a single continuous stream. Everything is password protected.

8 Timesaverz

₹free / Android

This is the app every lazy person in India was waiting for. It is India's first on-demand home services marketplace that delivers various services to one's door step – from cleaning, repairs, handyman jobs to running errands and paperwork.

9 Hinge

₹free / Android, iOS

Tinder not working for you? Looks like you need help from a few friends. Hinge uses Facebook as base to find people who are in your extended social network and uses social proximity to create matches, as opposed to geo-location.

APP SPOTLIGHT

KHAUGALIDEALS

₹free / Android

You already know it. If it's anything related to food, it has to be in the spotlight. And this time, we're in for a treat. The KhauGali app not only informs you of interesting deals going on in the restaurants around you, it also lets users upload video reviews of the food they eat. We tried to take a few videos but ended up devouring whatever was in front of us. Now we need something from p82 for damage control.

Dell™ recommends Windows.



2-in-1 PCs that adapt to you.

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- **Built-in stylus** - Take notes, sketch or edit photos with ease.
- **Precision touchpad** - Scroll, zoom, click and point with impressive accuracy and speed.



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Locate the nearest Dell stores: **SMS Dell <Your Place> to 90088 90088.**

***Stylus is only applicable for Inspiron 13 7000 Series 2-in-1.**

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Wires are like... so 2014 SENNHEISER RS WIRELESS HEADPHONES

Remember when you tripped over your earphones in office, trying to impress the girl in the next cubicle? Sennheiser wants to help with their new RS series.

The 4 models under the line are powered by 'Pure Path' wireless tech and operate on the 2.4 GHz band. That means they sound great while looking drool-worthy. If you still want to show that office chick your moves, these wireless headphones might be your best bet. Get jiggy with it.

from ₹15,990 / sennheiserindia.com



Scores easy ASUS MEMOPAD 8

What do you get when you cross the Godfather with a philosopher? An offer you can't understand. Thankfully, the 1.83GHz, 64-bit Intel Quad Core tablet with 8in display from Asus, titled the MeMO Pad 8, is clear about its intentions. A 2GB RAM, 16GB memory (an additional 5GB of storage on Life Time ASUS webstorage space plus 11GB additional for the first year), Android KitKat, 5MP and 1.2MP rear and front cameras and a 15.2Wh Li-polymer battery should make it seem like an offer you cannot refuse.

₹19,999 / flipkart.com



Happy Telephone Company! HTC DESIRE 820S

What does HTC stand for, anyway? Official sources say High Tech Computer, but Robert Downey Jr. says Happy Telephone Company. Guess which one we like? Much like RDJ, the HTC Desire 820S seems to have cracked that elusive combination of beauty and brains. Look at that 5.5in HD screen. Look at those gentle curves. Look at that dual-tone design. Sigh. And it isn't just a pretty face. It has the world's first Octa-Core processor, 2GB RAM, 4G capabilities and HTC's signature BoomSound speakers. What more do you want?

₹25,500 / htc.com/in



I MADE THIS



THE WEARABLE THAT'S REALLY WEARABLE

Mike Bell of Intel tells us why the MICA is fashion first, function second

Intel is into wearables in a big way: it launched the button-sized Curie chipset to enable better devices and holds big-prize 'Make It Wearable' competitions for the people who make them. So why was one of Intel's first wearables designed not to look like a gadget?

We introduced MICA at New York Fashion Week. We've worked hard to forge relationships with fashion brands because, although people are predicting 50 billion Internet of Things devices by 2020, that's not going to happen unless they are things that are desirable — that consumers actually want. MICA was developed in association with a New York fashion house called Opening Ceremony, and I think people would actually buy one without knowing that it had technology inside. And then they find out that they can get their

social updates on it — that they don't need to 'load' or 'pair' or do anything geeky — and suddenly they're fascinated. And you've got yourself an audience for wearables that previously didn't exist.

How did MICA lead to Curie, the button-sized wearables chip?

Designing something specifically for wearables is very different to taking a low-end cellphone part and making it do a new job inside a wearable. Curie had to be built from the ground up to be small enough to fit into any sort of device, but also be a stable hardware platform with great software that will help people get their devices to market quickly. At the moment developers tend to test ideas using an Arduino board, but it's kind of difficult to strap one of those to your wrist. So Curie is ready to begin prototyping on

straight away: it has an efficient processor, and it has some Intel-developed sensor processes that figure out — using very little power — whether you're walking or running or fishing or whatever. And it has Bluetooth LE and accelerometers and everything else, so just add a battery and your own cool secret sauce and you have a wearable.

attacking from both sides, by developing the fundamentals ourselves but also looking for other companies to work with on power usage.

Are people approaching wearables in the wrong way?

One of the things I see is that everyone seems to be trying to create the Swiss Army Knife of

"I THINK PEOPLE WOULD WANT ONE WITHOUT KNOWING IT HAS TECH INSIDE"

Battery life is a hot topic for wearables. Have you seen any new developments in that area?

There are certainly some good start-ups in the Bay area working on... I won't just say batteries, but power delivery in general. And, of course, we are doing our part to really bring down the power consumption of the chip itself. The whole architecture has to be designed to use the minimal amount of power for a task, and it's actually a pretty hard problem — one that we are

wearables. They do everything: they open my garage door, they cook my breakfast, they give me instantaneous heart rate when I push a button. I'm not sure how useful that is, having a snapshot of your heart rate. I think what you're going to see more of is specialised wearables. Some may be a very simple device with a few clear functions that makes you think, "Wow, how did I live without this?" — a fitness wearable, or a work device, or even something for fashion, like MICA.

INTEL CURIE: THE FACTS



32-BIT
INTEL
QUARK
CHIP

80KB
SRAM

6-AXIS
MOVEMENT
SENSOR

LOW-ENERGY
BLUETOOTH

Let your first one be memorable MOTO E 2ND GEN

Your first smartphone says a lot about you. It generally says you're broke and trying to buy one that is practically aimed at you, what with features and offers to make you feel like you've bought a 'deal'. The 2nd gen Moto E is a good start. Considering the 1.2 GHz Quad Core chipset, Android Lollipop, dual SIM, 5MP and 0.3MP rear and front cameras, 2390mAh battery and other features, makes this a memorable first time. A host of launch offers definitely helps sweeten the deal.

₹6999 / flipkart.com



Expectant cynosure HONOR 6 PLUS

Having impressed one and all with the Honor 6, Huawei's announcement at the recently concluded MWC 2015 in Barcelona has us eagerly awaiting the Honour 6 Plus. The dual SIM handset will feature a 5.5in Full HD display, 1.8GHz Quad Core HiSilicon Kirin 925 chipset with 3GB RAM on Android KitKat, 16GB and 32 GB memory variants. An interesting dual 8MP rear cameras and an 8MP front camera along with a massive 3600mAh battery (of course!) feature too. All eyes will be on this one, for sure.

₹tba / huaweimobileshop.com



Minimalism for your feet VANS ORIGINAL CLASSIC SIDE STRIPE

Tech nuts we might be, but our weekends seem to be packed with black-and-white photography exhibitions at converted industrial warehouses. And before anyone accuses us of being hipsters, take a dekkko at the Vans Original Side Stripe. Paying homage to Vans' classic designs from a time when film cameras were popular ('cos you didn't really have a choice), the new Side Stripe features canvas uppers and light pastel colours that make 'em hotter than artisanal cakes.

Convinced? Welcome to the minimalist side, dude. Here, have a decaffeinated espresso...

from ₹5999 / vans.com

PIZZA DELIVERY MAN PLAN IS A GO-GO

Gogoro Scooter

₹1ba (concept) / gogoro.com



The Panasonic lithium-ion batteries have a handle for quick pit stops

An electric scooter is the perfect urban transport solution, with only two factors holding it back... namely 'electric' and 'scooter'. But two ex-HTC execs have the answer

● **The issue with electricity is...**

Where does a city dweller get it from? Very few number of homes and workplaces have electric vehicle hook-ups, it's a seriously tiny proportion. Are you going to run an extension lead out of your first-floor flat window down to

the street? No, say Taylor and Luke of Gogoro. You're going to pay them a subscription and hot-swap your battery at roadside Gogoro GoStations. Smartphone apps will help you find the nearest GoStation, and the founders say the system will be smart enough to keep the stations efficient.

● **Which leaves 'scooter'.**

A word with nostalgic associations in the minds of most Indians, it speaks of dads dropping kids to school. Electric scooters have yet to find a hero, despite such varied efforts as BMW's expensive

C-Evolution and Yamaha's toy-like EC-03. So Gogoro designed its own. They've chosen their friends – Panasonic batteries, Philips LED headlights, Maxxis tyres – but designed a lot themselves. Hence: 6400W power, 0–50kmph in 4 seconds and a max speed of over 95kmph. At urban speeds, it should have a range of about 96kms. Crucially, because the batteries are part of the subscription deal, the entry cost should be within reach of us norms – though pricing is yet to be announced. This could be the electric scooter revolution we've all been waiting for.

YOU'LL PAY A SUBSCRIPTION AND HOT-SWAP YOUR BATTERY AT ROADSIDE STATIONS



InstaGlam MICROMAX CANVAS SELFIE

Selfies that never see the light of social media – heartbreaking stuff, isn't it? That's what Micromax thought too, and viola – here's a smartphone that unabashedly helps promote the narcissist in you. The Canvas Selfie has a 13MP cam not only at the rear, but also in the front. And inbuilt "beauty tools" that make your blemishes and double chin vanish, your face slimmer, eyes larger, teeth shinier, skin less oily, the works. It'll even add mascara, eye-shadow, blush and lip gloss, if you fancy it. All of this on a 4.7in HD IPS display. Excited? Go for it, and save on those parlour bills.

₹15,999 / micromaxinfo.com

Just shoot me SAMSUNG GALAXY GRAND MAX

Yes, it is indeed possible to be pragmatic as well as vain at the same time. Case in point is this selfie shooter from Samsung – the ultra-slim Galaxy Grand Max. It comes with a 5.25in HD display that offers a grand view of your pretty mug. It runs on Qualcomm's latest Snapdragon 410 Quad Core chipset with 1.5GB RAM so you can flash that prettiness across all public online platforms within seconds. There's a 120° wide-angle 5MP front cam that can also click pictures through voice and gesture recognition, and a 13MP rear camera so the other people in your life don't feel left out.

₹15,990 / snapdeal.com

Rap-chic RAPOO A600

Funny name for the times we live in, but this NFC/Bluetooth-enabled wireless speaker boasts of winning the German iF Product Design Award for its design. Small and nifty (no reference to any form of package here), it claims to play for upto 10 hours on a three-hour charge. And for those of you who have a terrible time with too many buttons, it's got only three, and they're big and sit on top for your pushing pleasure.

₹9099 / rapoo.com



CREATIVE

SoundBLASTER[®]ROAR™

HEAR THIS ROAR!

It's here, the new Creative Sound Blaster Roar. Defying the laws of acoustic engineering, this full-featured Bluetooth speaker gives you excellent audio performance with multiple connectivity options



★★★★★
Critically Acclaimed
Worldwide



PUMP UP THE VOLUME ANYTIME WITH THE ROAR BUTTON

Parties or gym workouts, your favourite music sounds even better with the ROAR button that instantly amps up the volume!



BOOST BASS INTELLIGENTLY WITH THE TERABASS BUTTON

Rocking out in less-than-ideal acoustical conditions? Just push the TERABASS button and prepare to be amazed as the Roar intelligently boosts the bass levels at low volume!

PASSIVE RADIATORS FOR INSANELY IMMERSIVE BASS!

Want even more bass? Bass that gets you lost in the music? Then you'll love the Roar's dual passive radiators that widen the sound stage even more!

ACTIVE SUBWOOFER FOR POWERFUL & TIGHT BASS

The Roar's bi-amplifier design with an active, high-excursion 2.5in driver throws out impressive levels of room-filling bass that makes your heart go 'boom'!

HIGH-FREQUENCY DRIVERS MAKE THE ROAR SUPREMELY ACCURATE

With twin high-frequency drivers inside, the Roar's more than capable of giving demanding audiophiles the balanced highs and far-field high frequency dispersion they crave

ACOUSTICALLY OPTIMISED DESIGN FOR CRISP & ACCURATE SOUND

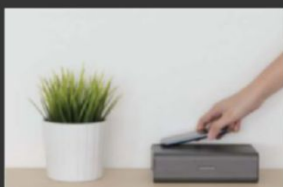
A monocoque endo-skeletal chassis that dramatically reduces vibrations and increases audio fidelity takes the Roar's room-filling prowess to the next level. Yup, just get ready to rock!



AMAZING FEATURES YOU'RE GONNA LOVE

NFC-ENABLED BLUETOOTH PAIRING AND MULTIPLE LINK OPTIONS LET YOU TAP & PLAY!

NFC makes connecting your phone with Bluetooth unbelievably easy! You also get multiple control options with Link Security, while a dual purpose 6000mAh battery gives you 8 hours of playback and even charges your phone!



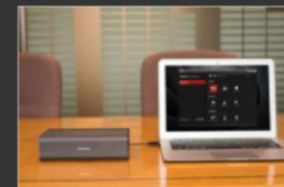
INTEGRATED AUDIO PLAYER & RECORDER FOR MICROSD PLAYBACK AND CALL RECORDING

The Roar's integrated MP3 / WAV / WMA audio player lets you play music from MicroSD cards, while the in-built speakerphone and call recording facility make this equally at home in the boardroom!



EXTERNAL SOUND BLASTER USB AUDIO MAKES GAMES AND MOVIES EVEN BETTER

Gamers and movie buffs will love how the Sound Blaster Roar connects to your PC over USB, enabling advanced audio processing through the Sound Blaster Control Panel and SBX Pro Studio suite.



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AVAILABLE AT

amazon.in

To learn more about Roar, visit Creative.com/roar



Audi for the junkie TECHNOGYM-AUDI GEA

It's an Audi, and the only thing it's missing is Salman Khan in it. Two aluminium handles fit into the rear set's pop out when you want to catch an upper body routine between signals, and the two flatboards on the floor can be raised and used for stepping exercises to keep that road rage in check. The monitor displays a video tutorial of Technogym exercise programmes, there's a fridge to keep your Gatorade cool, and a small drawer that contains cosmetics and a perfumed pouch for aromatherapy. No, we're not making this up.

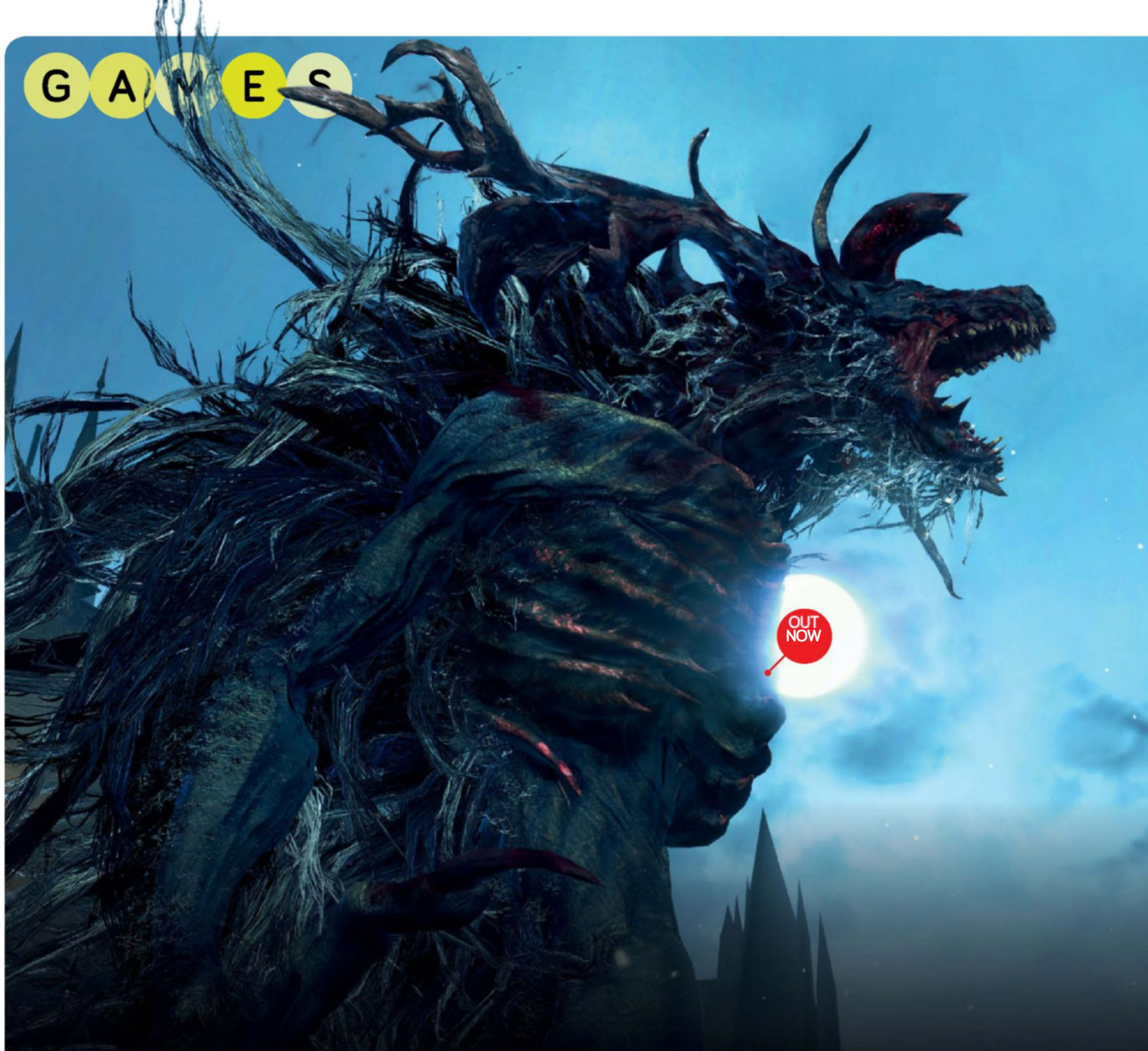
₹1.5b / technogym.com



DROP EVERYTHING AND DOWNLOAD...

Frankly ₹free / iOS, Android

Here's a cheap way to become a journalist. Frankly lets you interview celebrities (somewhat). The app has a list of famous people including Arvind Kejriwal and you have to ask them a question. Because why not? If there are others with a similar question, they upvote your question and the celebrity answers it through a video. There are people from all walks of life, including doctors, advocates, astrologers and tattoo artists. We also found an alleged Salman Khan profile with many people curious about his marriage plans. It works, but either you or the celebs will get bored eventually.



FIRST PLAY BLOODBORNE PS4

Hidetaka Miyazaki isn't just the creator of two of the best dungeon crawlers of all time (*Dark Souls* and *Demon's Souls*); as far as ultra-hardcore gamers are concerned, he also represents a time when games used to be difficult. His latest is every bit as intimidating as anything else on his CV.

Visually, *Bloodborne* is close to exquisite. It's set in a nightmarish necropolis called Yharnam, which looks like Gotham City designed by H.P. Lovecraft — all gothic spires, swirling black clouds,

and flickering streetlamps that illuminate the grisly creatures that stalk its cobbles.

There's a lot in PS4-exclusive *Bloodborne* that *Dark Souls* fans will find familiar. Players have heavy and light attacks, a dodge-roll and a quick-heal, plus you can see the ghosts of other players where they met their untimely demises. Oh, and the checkpoint system is eye-wateringly unforgiving.

However, it also has a couple of new kinks in its gameplay. You can dual-wield weapons — ranged and melee — and some

of them have two settings.

The wicked-looking scythe the protagonist carried in our demo, for example, could be extended with a flick of the L1 button.

The key to surviving is to treat every monster you face with respect. Assuming that a large lumbering beast can't move with astonishing speed is the easiest way to get killed — and once you're dead, all the enemies you destroyed become unhelpfully reanimated.

It's dark, bleak, grim, but oh so inviting. Prepare to die. Over and over and over again.



FIRST LOOK LARA CROFT'S NEXT HOLIDAY

RISE OF THE TOMB RAIDER

Xbox One, Xbox 360

Lara Croft's been lying low since her latest Xbox-exclusive adventure was announced last summer, but we now know that she'll be back in *Rise Of The Tomb Raider* at the end of this year.

Set a year after she survived being shipwrecked and almost sacrificed on the island of Yamatai, Lara's feeling the effects of her ordeal, so just like anyone would do, she's taken herself off to Siberia in search of a mythical sunken city called Kitezh to find out the secret of eternal life.

In the spirit of the original *Tomb Raider* games from the '90s, Lara's greatest adversary is the harsh environment, with wolves and bears trying to kill her when avalanches or other natural events aren't.

As is *de rigueur* in almost every new game these days, there's a *Far Cry*-inspired crafting system that'll allow Lara to create and upgrade items to help her fight the elements. Some might require things that can only be acquired after dark, such as a wolf pelt, suggesting it'll have a meaningful day/night cycle. Just don't expect to get much rest.



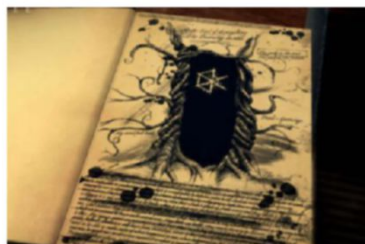
COMING SOON MOBILE GAMES



JOE DANGER

new to Android

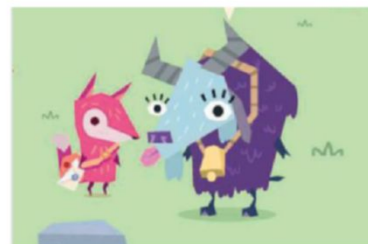
While we wait for Hello Games to finish *No Man's Sky* it's worth spending some time with one of their other games, such as *Joe Danger*, who is flipping his bike onto Android for the first time. There are 80 levels in which to try to kill the unkillable stuntman, and gamepads are supported.



THE ROOM 3

iOS, Android to follow

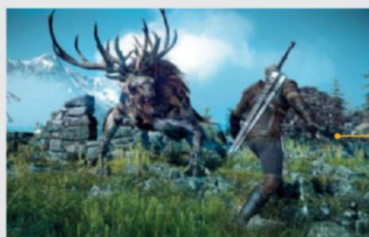
Considering how many awards *The Room* and *The Room 2* won it's amazing there's still any space in there for puzzles, but the third piece in this touchscreen trilogy is due this month. Expect the kind of teasers that'll distract you during the day and keep you up at night (in a good way).



LETTER TALE

iOS, Android to follow

With a bizarre back story involving carrier pigeons, a lost fox and some missing post, *Letter Tale* is no macho FPS. You are Ari, a fox taken under the pigeons' collective wing, and it's your job to deliver the post. Doing so (and finding out where you're from) will require smart problem-solving.



INCOMING

OUT NOW

- MORTAL KOMBAT X
- DARK SOULS OF THE FIRST SIN

MAY

- THE WITCHER 3: WILD HUNT

JUNE

- BATMAN: ARKHAM KNIGHT

JULY

- LEGO: JURASSIC WORLD



THE
ONE FOR
BEGINNERS

THE ONE
YOU CAN'T
LOSE

THE
TINY ONE

THE
ONE WITH
WINGS

HIGH SPEC SKY TECH

A swarm of new drones has gathered in the sky
ready to take 2015 by storm – and filming in
4K is just one of their many skills...

THE
ONE THAT
SHOOTS
4K

THE ONE
FOR THE
PROS

THE RULES OF THE SKY

1 WAIT A MINUTE

The use of civilian drones is banned in India, but that is likely to change soon. If you're using one in a public place, our advice is: Don't.

2 LINE OF SIGHT

Always keep your drone in line of sight, and no more than 500m horizontally and 122m vertically away from the pilot.

3 KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Keep it 50m away from people, buildings or cars. If you're flying near large groups, make it 150m and steer safe.

4 PRIVATE EYES

Be aware of privacy laws. Don't snoop in people's balconies and then publish the pics or video online, even if it's just on social media.

5 GET OFF MY LAND

Seems obvious but never fly one in restricted airspace, ie: near an airport. They don't like that one bit. Keep abreast of the law on usai.in.

THE ONE THAT SHOOTS 4K

DJI INSPIRE 1

from ₹2.10 lacs / dji.com / flycam.in

If you stand in front of a hovering Inspire 1, its four propellers buzzing like a swarm of hornets in an anger management class, it's impossible not to think of the scene in *Robocop* when ED-209 malfunctions and turns that poor chap inside-out with its mounted machine guns. Fortunately the Inspire 1 isn't armed, but if you don't know what you're doing, its 2935kg hull, 13in props and top speed of almost 80kmph could do some damage.

However, it's a hugely capable drone, with a camera on a 3-axis gimbal that can shoot 4K video at 30fps, 1080p at 60fps and 12MP stills to an onboard micro SD card. After takeoff

the carbon fibre arms lift the propellers away from the camera's field of vision to give an unobstructed 360° view, while the live video feed can transmit to a paired phone or tablet up to 2km away.

The Inspire 1 comes with one controller but it's possible to add another and hand over the camera controls to a co-pilot while you concentrate on keeping the drone in the sky. It constantly keeps track of its own position to ensure stability in the air and remembers where it took off from, updating its home point if you move. It's like having the world's most advanced and obedient boomerang.

HANDS ON



JOOLS WHITEHORN
CONTRIBUTOR

From the moment you see it, it's obvious the Inspire 1 is no toy: it's sleek and sculpted, reminding me of a sentry turret robot from *Portal*. The controls are a mix of user-friendly automation and pro-level customisability. Swiping an on-screen slider triggers the auto-takeoff sequence, lifting the drone to around head height and smoothly raising its legs. Once aloft, there's an abundance of on-screen options within the app, as well as wheels and extra shoulder buttons on the controller for quick operation of camera settings. Like the smaller DJI Phantom series, the Inspire 1 is nimble and responsive, though its extra weight is obvious from the bassier prop noise and more purposeful movement. Its speed is impressive – essential for tracking shots of vehicles and fast flybys – and only slightly terrifying. It's not for casual flyers, but personally I can't wait to give it another go.

Flying webcam

The controller has a mount for your phone, with the free app giving a 720p live video feed or map view, and syncs footage to the phone's memory while you fly.





1

2

1

Hover the top
These sensors on the bottom use sonar and visual feedback to calculate its position in the air, allowing it to hover in place when GPS isn't available.

2

Ready, steady, go
The DJI's gimbal is constantly fed data about the drone's movement to ensure it keeps the camera steady, even if you're flying it like you stole it.

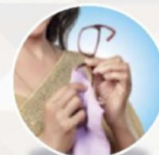
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1

A clear head

The head where the camera is stashed can move independently of the rest of the drone, so it'll waggle in the wind without giving the pilot seasickness.

2

Props for the props

The eXom's four propellers are protected by these thin carbon fibre shields, although if the sensors do their job, they shouldn't be needed.

THE ONE
FOR THE
PROS

SENSEFLY EXOM

₹1ba / sensefly.com

ANOTHER OPTION



DRAGANFLYER X6

Four propellers good, six propellers better, right? Yeah, that's probably why we're not allowed one of these. But if you are, it comes with a 20MP Sony QX100 which feeds video back to a touchscreen on the controller, with a separate display below it for real-time telemetry. **US\$9000 / draganfly.com**

If you're looking for a drone to fly around the local park, the Sensefly eXom is not for you. Despite its friendly, insectoid looks, this is a drone designed for professional mapping, inspection and suchlike, not terrorising the local shrubbery.

Rather than relying on GPS for navigation, the eXom is absolutely packed with sensors: five vision sensors that work a bit like those annoying parking beepers on your car, plus five ultrasonic proximity sensors, which all work together so the pilot can concentrate on what the HD camera's seeing rather than what it might be about to crash into. And it's not just

video and stills that the camera can record: there's a thermal mode too. It can even do all three at once. The eXom's eye has a huge 270° vertical field of view, meaning it can hover beneath things and inspect what's above.

Getting it to fly where you want is a case of either specifying a zone of interest on the eMotion app, or activating ScreenFly mode, which allows you to tap on an object from the camera's live feed and let the eXom fly itself into place.

But all of this comes at a price. What exactly that is hasn't been made clear, but to give you an idea, Sensefly's fixed-wing eBee drone (see p52) will set you back £15,000.

PRO TIPS



PHILIPPE FRANCKEN
FOUNDER OF
CITY DRONES LTD

ONE CHECK IT OUT

Have a good look over the aircraft to ensure there's no obvious damage, and repair or replace any parts before flying. If the unfortunate does happen, it'll help you pinpoint the origin of the failure.

TWO PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Slowly work out your drone's limitations. Set a goal and work towards it until it has been mastered; don't go straight into copying what you've seen on YouTube.

THREE DON'T BLAME IT ON THE WEATHER, MAN

It's not recommended to fly in any precipitation, bad visibility, winds over 10m/s or low temperatures. The colder it is, the less flying time you'll get out of the batteries.

FOUR PREPARE TO FAIL

Familiarise yourself with the failsafe mode as it may be your chance to rescue your aircraft.

1

Google-beater

The Iris+ can take high-res top-down shots to make maps, or even capture the data required to create 3D models of buildings or landmarks.

2

Watch out

For more geek points, you can use a Pebble smartwatch to control the Iris+. Just sync it with DroidPlanner 2 and you can transfer all control to your wrist.



THE ONE
YOU CAN'T
LOSE

3D ROBOTICS IRIS+ PRO KIT

€1085 / shop.epictv.com

While DJI's Inspire 1 is for seasoned pilots only, and Parrot's Bebop comes with aerial training wheels, 3D Robotics' Iris+ hovers somewhere in the middle. It has a slight Meccano look about it, but it's pretty much ready to fly as soon as you open the box.

This Pro Kit comes with a motorised gimbal that screws on underneath, although the cheaper basic model just has a fixed camera mount at the front. For footage that's steadier than a heavily sedated rock you'll want the gimbal. The Iris+ doesn't come with a camera, but it's designed to hold a GoPro Hero 3 (₹37,700) or Hero 4 Black (₹47,500, gopro.com) –

with the latter giving you 4K-quality video.

If it starts to run low on battery or strays out of range, its built-in GPS will guide it back to where it took off from, but things really get good when you attach the bundled antenna to an Android phone or tablet, turning it into a touchscreen controller for the Iris+. A free app called DroidPlanner 2 allows you to draw routes on a satellite map for your drone to fly automatically, or you can put it in 3PV mode so it follows you – ideal for gnarly skiing or mountain-biking videos and high-altitude drone pics. It'll make using a selfie stick look positively understated.



● THE ECO-DRONES

The Iris+ might not be able to take its eye off you, but BioCarbon Engineering's drones are more concerned with what's happening on the ground. That's not something you'd normally look for in a thing that's supposed to fly, but BE's objective is very much land-based. Deforestation destroys 26 billion trees a year and even the keenest, most green-fingered gardener would struggle to replace them at the same rate. And that's where the drones come in.

First the area to be replanted is mapped from the sky, then a specially adapted planting drone is sent around a pre-determined route to fire pre-germinated seed pods into the ground from around two metres up, at points identified from the maps by the BioCarbon Engineering team.

Does it work? Well, you'll have to wait a few years to see the results. Trees don't just spring up overnight, you know.



Control yourself
No, it's not an old-skool RC car controller – this is for the Iris+. It's great for intricate manoeuvres, but to unlock all of the drone's skills, hook it up to your phone.

GOPROS
THAT GO
WHERE
YOU GO



HEXO+

The GoPro-carrying Hexo+ requires no extra antenna for your phone. Just use the app to choose, frame and order your shots, select camera movements and then edit the footage, before uploading straight to YouTube. It's like having a director in your pocket.

US\$1150 / hexoplus.com



AIRDOG

Man's best friend just got tougher with the AirDog, a GoPro-slinging drone that follows a wireless, waterproof AirLeash you wear on your wrist or attach to your bike. The AirLeash even lets you tweak some controls while flying. US\$1300 / airdog.com

**MORE
FIXED-WINGS**



CARBON FLYER

Looking a lot like a paper aeroplane made out of carbon fibre instead of old trees, the Carbon Flyer is controlled via Bluetooth and is almost designed to crash. That doesn't mean it won't fly – it just won't mind too much when it inevitably makes an unscheduled landing.

**US\$150 /
carbonflyer.com**



SENSEFLY EBEE

The eXom's older sibling, this flying wing will also pilot itself, although the eMotion software allows you to adjust its flightpath, changing the altitude at specific points in order to capture more detailed info down low or avoid obstacles by flying high.

**₹25,000 /
sensefly.com**

THE ONE
THAT'S
A WING

LEHMANN LA100

€1035 / lehmannaviation.com

With all these heli-drones it's easy to forget that the ones the military has been using for years are more often wing-based. Weighing in at 850g, with a 92cm wingspan, Lehmann Aviation's LA100 takes its cues from those, although without all the scary stuff. Simply attach your GoPro, fire up the prop and throw the LA100 into the air; it'll take it from there.

In fact, this is probably the only drone here that actually deserves the name, because once it's airborne, you can kick back and watch it get on with the job. Or not – it doesn't matter. After it's left your hands, you can't control the LA100 at all: no barrel rolls, no loop-the-

loops, nothing. It'll spend the next five minutes flying a pre-programmed route within a 500m radius of the launch site at an altitude of about 100m, before landing gracefully at your feet with its photographic payload. It can even land on water.

Obviously all this means you can't adjust the camera while it's in flight, or get it to buzz your brain tower for the world's most terrified-looking selfie, but it should make it pretty difficult to crash and it's one of the simplest methods of getting started in DIY aerial photography. If you'd prefer a bit more control, the LA200 (€2125) lets you plot a flightpath on a Windows 8 tablet.



**SOME DRONES
YOU'D BE VERY
HAPPY TO SEE**

Most people might associate winged drones with nasty military business, but you don't have to look far to find them doing good. CATUAV, a company based in Barcelona, has developed a drone that can detect buried landmines using a combination of near-infrared, thermal and standard cameras. Someone still has to go in and dispose of the mines, but with over 70 countries still plagued by them, these maps help to take out some of the dangerous guesswork.

New Zealand's coastguard has been sending a UAV out ahead of the lifeboat in an attempt to speed up the process of finding people at sea. The drone, named Toroa, which is Maori for albatross, is also large enough to carry and drop liferafts and supplies when someone is located.



Mission control

There are no controls for the LA100 as it flies itself, but this is the OperationCenter app, which is used to draw flight paths for other Lehmann drones.



1

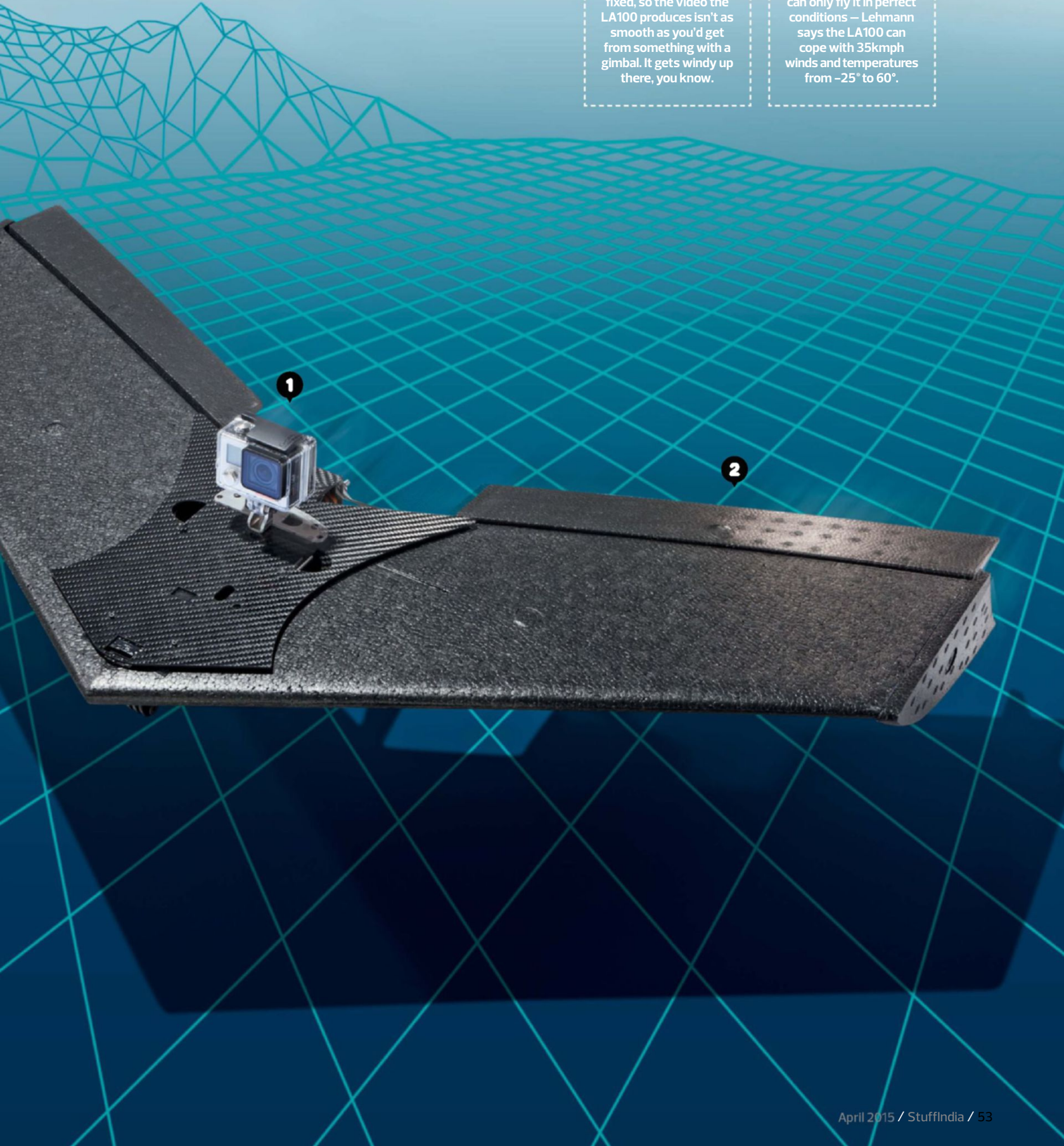
Turbulent video

The GoPro mount is fixed, so the video the LA100 produces isn't as smooth as you'd get from something with a gimbal. It gets windy up there, you know.

2

Storm chaser

That doesn't mean you can only fly it in perfect conditions – Lehmann says the LA100 can cope with 35kmph winds and temperatures from -25° to 60°.





1

Points of view

The camera is built into the fuselage, but it has 'digital tilt control' for limited panning. It's not as good as a gimbal, but it does add up to a 180° field of view.

2

Bumper 'copter

For indoor flying the Bebop has guards that can be clipped on to stop its props coming into contact with stuff they shouldn't, such as your eyebrows, or the cat.

3

Your eyes in the sky

The Skycontroller adds an HDMI out, which can be used to pipe a drone's eye view to an Oculus Rift headset, complete with head-tracking camera control. Slick.

THE
ONE FOR
BEGINNERS

PARROT BEBOP

from ₹49,999 / ebay.in

Back in 2010, Parrot showed us the joy of flying cameras with its AR.Drone. It was more RC toy than full-on UAV but it was enough to give anyone who flew it the bug. The Bebop is its successor, and a significant upgrade.

You still control it with a phone or tablet, but GPS is now built in rather than being an optional extra, so you can get it to 'return home' and hover above where it took off (not where it was built) before landing at the prod of a touchscreen, or plot flying routes on a map using Flight Plan mode, an in-app purchase for FreeFlight 3 (₹free, Android/iOS). The camera's been boosted to

14MP, plus it'll shoot 1080p video to its 8GB of storage.

If you'd like finer control over your Bebop you can add a Skycontroller (below), which will bump the total price up to ₹93,093. That's a lot of cash, but it adds proper physical joysticks, a whole load of tactile buttons and an antenna the size of a small table that boosts the range to 2km. When just using a tablet or phone, you are restricted by the strength of its Wi-Fi connection to the drone.

It's not all straight-faced, though. The AR.Drone's playful side lives on in the Bebop, with impressive flips executed with one touch. No wonder dogs are so into it (see Hands On, right).

HANDS ON



TOM WIGGINS
DEPUTY EDITOR
STUFF UK

On takeoff the Bebop immediately attracted the attention of a local dog, who stood underneath it and barked incessantly for the next few minutes. While we tried to manoeuvre it away from the hound's jaws, the Bebop also attracted the attention of a local tree. Its lightweight chassis was no match for the January wind and its emergency mode, which lands the drone automatically, is of no use when its propellers are tangled in branches. At least I'd proved that dogs can look up. Forty-five minutes and the help of a passing man called Yuli later, we managed to dislodge it. I decided to continue indoors.

The live feed is a little too laggy to navigate by and the on-screen controls aren't always as accurate as you'd like, but once you get the hang of it, swooping and strafing with the Bebop is brilliant fun. It's just a pity the battery runs out so quickly.

NEED MORE PRACTICE?



GHOST BASIC

Ghost used Indiegogo to fund two drones: the DJI-alike Aerial and this simpler Basic model. Once in the air, it's just a case of using the app's map view to direct it around the skies, a bit like playing your own airborne point 'n' click real-time strategy game. **US\$600 / ghost-drone.com**



DJI PHANTOM 2 VISION+

The Inspire 1's little brother has a friendlier price tag and less daunting appearance, but it can still produce some incredible aerial footage from its onboard camera. It even knows the areas you're not allowed to fly in to prevent coming a cropper with the coppers. **₹95,000 / flycam.in**



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Process



Two Way
Drainage

www.mitashi.com

www.facebook.com/mitashikhelegakya

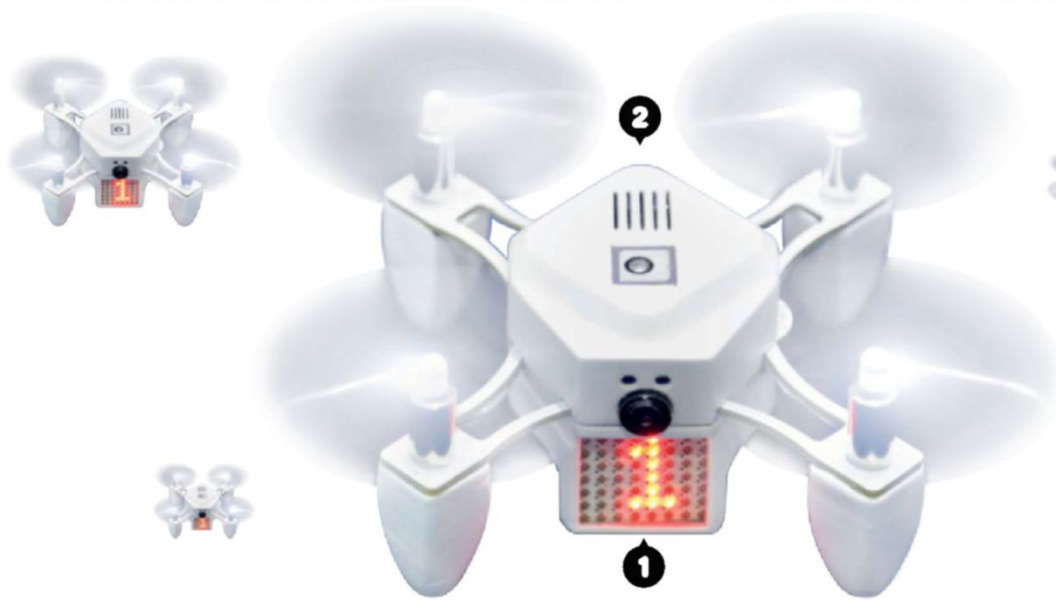
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1

Sky writing

This 8x8-pixel display allows you to show coloured icons in order to tell each drone apart, plus it also doubles as a countdown timer and flash for the camera.

2

Lens be friends

The Zano is meant for relative close-ups, not mapping or long shots, so it'll work best between 15 and 30 metres away from you. Say cheese!

THE TINY,
SWARMING
ONE

ZANO

₹15,800 / flyzano.com

On its own, one tiny Zano drone might not be particularly intimidating, but just imagine a whole swarm of them stalking your every move. Backed by £2.3m of Kickstarter cash after asking for just £125,000, an individual Zano measures just 6.5x6.5cm, connects directly to your phone or tablet over Wi-Fi and takes to the air to film whatever gnarly pursuit you happen to be doing that day. But multiple Zanos can form a multi-angle, autonomous camera cloud, all shooting the same subject from different positions while tracking you at a speed of up to 40kmph. Technically there's no maximum swarm size, although an upper limit

of 255 has been set for practical reasons. Just imagine trying to outrun that angry little lot.

Each Zano has an infrared sensor to communicate with its buddies and avoid obstacles, so they should be able to dodge trees and other riders as you barrel down single-track on your mountain bike with the swarm in tow. If you'd rather take control, a Free Flight mode brings up on-screen joysticks and sliders to allow you to play pilot.

Its camera shoots 5MP stills and 1080p video, plus there are plans to add face recognition and in-app editing to allow you to add filters, audio and text. Tiny, but mighty.

SMALLER



PARROT MINIDRONE ROLLING SPIDER

Parrot's palm-sized, angry-faced MiniDrone weighs just 55g, and its engines have a nifty trick of firing up when you drop it. The snaps from its downward-facing camera won't rival the Inspire 1 for quality, but then it does cost 30 times less than DJI's pride and joy. ₹14,000 / ebay.in

EVEN
SMALLER



REVELL CONTROL PROTO QUAD

Revell isn't 100% sure but it reckons the Proto Quad could be the world's tiniest quadcopter. Small enough to sit on the controller with plenty of room to spare, it measures less than 3cm across, can do loops — and if you're not careful you'll lose it when you yawn. ₹tba / revell.de/en

● DANGER ZONE RESCUE DRONE

The Zano might snap excellent selfies, but if you were trapped in a collapsed building and your phone had been crushed by what used to be an en-suite bathroom, adding to your Instagram account should be the last thing on your mind.

Flyability's Gimball drone, which recently won the UAE Drones For Good Award, is encased in a spherical cage that protects its propellers so it can reach its goal by bumping around hazardous environments, bouncing off obstacles like a motorised daddy-long-legs.

With an HD camera streaming video back to base, it can be used to search for survivors, inspect unsafe structures and look around areas with toxic atmospheres. Smart.



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- **Beamforming Technology**

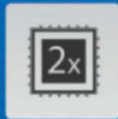
Locate your connected devices and boost wireless signal strength in those directions, delivering more targeted and highly efficient wireless connection.



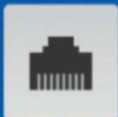
Dual Band
2.4GHz+5GHz



N600+
AC1300



1GHz Dual
Core CPU



Gigabit
LAN Port



USB
3.0 Port



TP-LINK
Tether App.



AC1200

Wireless Dual Band USB Adapter
Archer T4U

TP-LINK India Private Limited

www.facebook.com/tp-linkind

Website: www.tp-link.in



Why 802.11ac?



Archer C9
Details



NEXT

THE DRONE OF THE FUTURE

Think shooting 4K video and auto-following is smart? That's nothing compared to the drones that are on their way...



1

IT'LL FLY ITSELF

Automatically following a phone is all well and good but it's not quite autonomous flight, is it? AscTec's Firefly can find its way from A to B automatically, without bumping into any obstacles it encounters on the way, even if they move. It uses six Intel RealSense cameras that can detect objects in 360° around the drone and send avoidance commands to its autopilot system. San Francisco's Skydio has also created a similar system. RIP drone pilots? ascotec.de



2

YOU'LL FLY IT FROM ANYWHERE

Unless you've managed to train an octopus to use a couple of joysticks, right now you need one pilot per drone you want to fly. If you've got a fleet of them, that soon gets complicated and potentially expensive, especially if they're not all in one place. However, DroneDeploy has developed cloud-based software to enable one person to pilot multiple drones – and because it works over 4G the pilot doesn't necessarily even have to leave the house. dronedeploy.com



IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

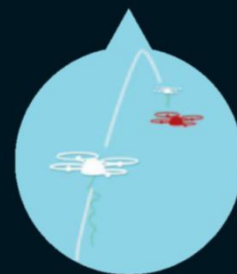
If you have a heart attack, getting help quickly can be the difference between life and death. Alec Momont of Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands has designed an autonomous drone that can deliver a defibrillator to a patient far quicker than an ambulance. It uses the caller's phone's GPS to locate the scene and has cameras and microphones onboard to allow medical staff to deliver potentially life-saving instructions to someone at the scene. alecmomont.com



4

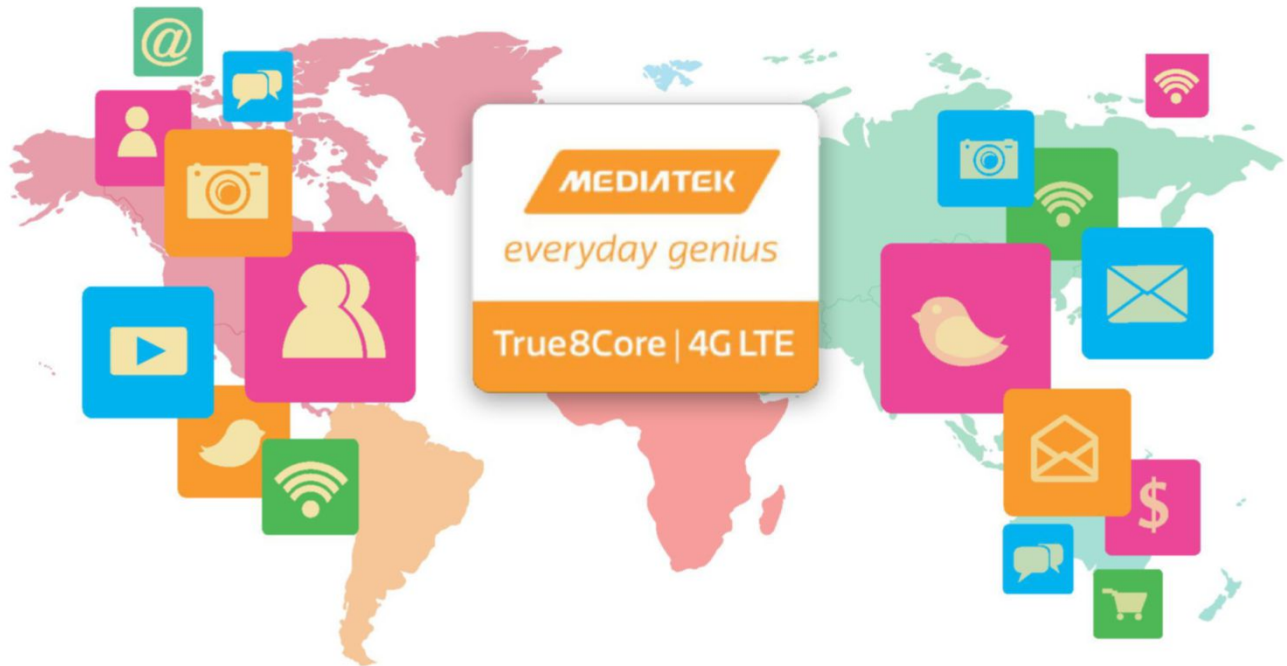
IT'LL PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY

If the sky ends up thick with drones there's a good chance they won't all be delivering medicine or innocently filming high-altitude home videos. If you suspect you might be a target for spies or paps, you might need a Rapere – a kind of autonomous flying guard dog. If you spot a suspect drone flying over your property, launch the Rapere and it'll scan the sky for the culprit, hover in position above it and drop a tangle line into its propellers. rapere.io



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6

THE DRONE OF THE FUTURE



5

IT'LL BUILD A HOUSE FOR YOU

OK, so a drone won't actually lay the bricks or paint the skirting boards for you, but Tokyo construction company Komatsu plans to use drones made by San Francisco start-up Skycatch to scan building sites from the air just like one of Sensefly's would, then use the resulting 3D models to program routes for driverless bulldozers. As they flatten and dig, onboard sensors will even collect data on how the land has changed in order to update the original 3D models.
skycatch.com



IT'LL DELIVER YOUR SHOPPING

Amazon's Prime Air drone might've been mostly a PR stunt but it's not just a copy of *Life Of Pi* in the sky. A company called Matternet is already using drones for test deliveries of medical supplies and blood samples in remote areas of Haiti, Papua New Guinea, Bhutan and the Dominican Republic, with plans for its own fleet this year. The real question is: can drones deliver those 'sorry we missed you' notes without bothering to knock as well as a living, breathing postie can?
matternet.us



7

IT WON'T LAST FOREVER

Most of the drones here are made of plastic and carbon fibre: great for withstanding collisions with trees or the ground but not the most eco-friendly materials in the world. NASA's Ames Research has come up with a 'living' bio drone that looks a bit like a flying eggbox. It's made from fungal tissue, so if it crashes out of recycling reach it just rots away into mushy goo. Great if you don't want it to be found, or are flying where it would be impossible to get back.
bit.ly/fungidrone



8

AND IT WON'T NECESSARILY FLY

We know more about the surface of the moon than the ocean floor, so why take to the skies? As part of the excellently named Silent Nemo project, the US Navy has made an underwater drone that looks like a five-foot shark. GhostSwimmer propels itself just like a real shark, making it quieter than anything with a propeller. It's designed for surveillance and reconnaissance at depths from 0.25-90 metres. The size of your boat should be just fine.
bit.ly/ghostswimmer



Teutonic Technology

Rising beyond the shadows of the endearing bug, the sharply dressed TT has never looked more serious. We get behind the wheel to tickle the German...

from ₹70 lacs (approx.) / audi.in

The TT hasn't had the best adolescence. Looking podgy and wearing baggies didn't help its street cred with the burly boys from Bavaria too much. But all that is about to change with its coming of age. Now in its third generation, it has lost the chubby fat and got the lean, mean look that is more attuned to skinny-fit jeans. The biggest and most noticeable change is up front. The Matrix LED headlights and the single-frame grille form an aggressive stance, from which the bold wheel arches take over. The Audi TT has a profile as iconic as Pam Anderson, perhaps with as many curves!

At its core though, the TT has always been about offering a fun sports driving experience to the average driver. Losing 50kg over its predecessor and retaining the Quattro permanent all-wheel drivetrain, it takes urban performance driving to new levels of enjoyment. We are struggling for negatives here, but honestly, they are hard to come by when the engineering team is at the top of its game.



1 Familiarly fresh

The silhouette is unmistakably TT and yet the complete plastic surgery has transformed its body language into an assertive sportscar that isn't a half-hearted attempt at usurping the Porsche Boxster from its pedestal. It is a genuine contender at becoming the new icon of urban sportscars.

2 A hoot to boot

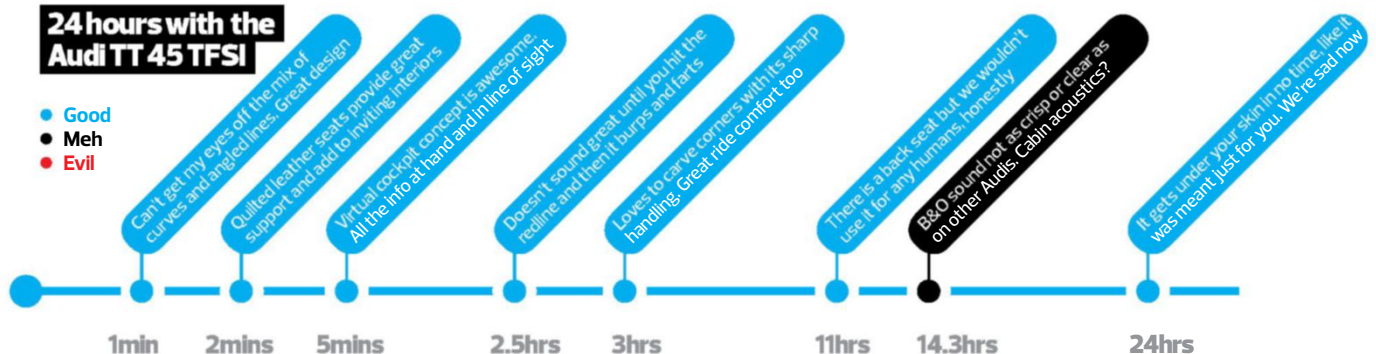
A turbocharged, 4cyl motor that is revvier than Bugs Bunny on Red Bull forms the epicenter of this Audi. Mated to an equally hurried 6-speed Stronic dual-clutch gearbox, it puts a smile on your face the moment you get off the mark and hit the 6800rpm redline. Adequately quick, perfectly tuned.

3 Sound and light show

Like with all Audis, the eyes are what define the car's character. The TT wears new lenses and along with the optional Matrix unit, it also looks like it's bejeweled. Around the back, more LEDs make the famous TT booty tastier. Rev it up and sound actuators reward with sonorous pops and cackles.

24 hours with the Audi TT 45 TFSI

- Good
- Meh
- Evil





Tech specs

Engine 2.0lt 4-cyl turbocharged
Power 230bhp@6200rpm
Max torque 370Nm
Top speed 250kmph
Acceleration 0-100 kmph 5.3secs
Transmission 6-speed Stronic dual-clutch
Wheels 225/50 R17
Fuel tank capacity 55 litres

More virtual than real

Audi Virtual Cockpit breaks cover for the first time on this new TT. In-car technology may never be the same again!



Steer with a view

Through the flat-bottom wheel, you can select every aspect of the car. Sat-nav, media, vehicle dynamics, etc. It's super intuitive and super sharp. Prepare to be dazzled!

All-new cockpit

Thinking outside the norm, Audi engineers should take a bow. The AC controls are mounted on the AC vents themselves. How cool is that! A brilliant place to spend all weekend.



In control, when you aren't...

Aiding aerodynamics, the rear wing can be raised on request, or if you're going fast enough to play windscreen squash with the bugs. You won't need it much since the TT's brakes are some of the best in the business. And no, they don't always need to be sewn out of carbon fibre!



4 Customisable Quattro

Can't think of an Audi without it? We would struggle too, but the TT raises the game a bit. The latest iteration of the legendary 4WD system diverts power to the rear wheels instantaneously when your right foot goes rabid. It's possible to have sideways fun while being in complete control.

5 Sluggerville central

Carving corners is one of this car's specialties. The progressive nature of its 4WD system means you can get the tail out just a little to have fun with, not scare you. The ride is compliant in Comfort mode and during our test on the bruised roads of Mumbai, it never once gave up on our backs. Oh, those seats!



This wasn't an 'RS' model. Heck, it wasn't even an S model. But the Audi TT may be the most fun I've had behind the wheel in the last couple of months. The 230bhp motor is so eager to go faster, it almost feels criminal wasting time at red lights. The steering is direct and precise, the brakes have the bite force of a Nile croc and the grip levels are usual Quattro calibre. Add to it the space-age instrument cluster that brightens up your day with its fancy graphics, and this makes for a compelling buy. [@nishantpadhiar](#)

STUFF SAYS

Modernisation of an icon has only made it more iconic. Audi TT forms the template for fun cars ★★★★★

HISTORY THREE GENERATIONS IN 15 YEARS



Going back to 1998, the TT's roots were always embedded in the same garden as no-nonsense roadsters. Names like the Mazda Miata, Honda S2000 and the Mini Cooper spring to mind. The name itself evokes a certain imagery, and in the case of the TT, it has always been the promise of distinctive design inside and out and purity in its drive. In its 15-year history, it has only once got a V6 motor, hinting at Audi's intention to keep weight low and the fun factor, high. The latest iteration is a huge step forward in every respect, and especially for Audi, a kickstarter of many new tech concepts.

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Return of the netbook

Netbooks! Those unloved, scrawny laptops that got battered by both, ultrabooks and tablets... They're back, but are they better?

■ Gorgeous ultrabook it ain't, but the X205 does wear an air of quiet competence – the fanless design is quiet, the little keyboard is quite usable, and best of all, it weighs less than a kilogram. How light is that? A lot lighter than our last steak-and-fries lunch.

■ The 11.6in screen offers a yawn-worthy resolution of 1366x768, but that's manageable at this size. It's also bright enough for when you want to feel like Hemingway at the beach. But we really wish Asus had worked on those 'orrible viewing angles.

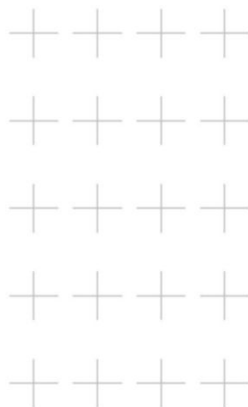
■ Don't expect blistering performance (or anything other than 'it'll do') from the quad-core Intel Atom chip, although the energy-efficient internals means the 'lll Asus easily lives up to its promise of well over a day's work.

■ Twin, full-size USB ports are a pleasant surprise, but the lack of USB 3.0 is a crying shame. Other stuff we like is the Micro HDMI port and the card reader – though it doesn't support full-size SD cards, so good luck copying your holiday snaps without a cable!

■ No aggravatingly limited OS here (We're looking at you, Chromebooks)! No, you get proper Windows 8.1. Factor in the 1-year subscription to Office 365, and the terabyte-and-a-half of online storage, and it's ready for your presentation.

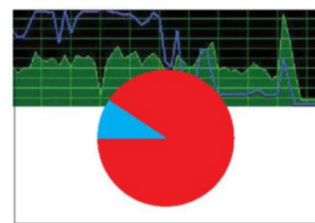
Tech specs

OS Windows 8.1 **RAM** 2 GB
Storage 32 GB eMMC (expandable)
Screen 1366x768, 16:9, 11.6in
Connectivity USB 2.0, Micro HDMI, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0 **Battery** 3800 Whr
Camera 3MP webcam
Price ₹14,999 / asus.com/in



Pocket-sized windows

It might be a world removed from an ultrabook, but hey, you can't forget it's also far cheaper. And unlike Chromebooks, it runs Windows. Yes, you get to use 'real' applications, not just silly 'apps'.



...with a limited view

The 32GB drive has just 14GB free, which is more limiting than cast iron shackles, the 2GB RAM gets gobbled up faster than lobster at a buffet, and as for the 3MP camera, don't even get us started....

STUFF SAYS More power would be nice, but it's still quite a decent ultraportable ★★★★★

Is this the answer to the long-suffering freelancer's prayers?

@taoofdudeism



Perhaps, if you don't want to splurge on a proper Ultrabook but still need a lightweight machine that can do way more than a tablet. The Eeebook, silly name notwithstanding, runs Windows 8.1 and has a proper keyboard with excellent battery life. It's not something that you'll drool over, and the specs will be limiting for many, but there's still enough oomph for basic (boring?) office tasks like email and spreadsheet crunching.

App:roved

FOR
iPHONE
GLORY

Transmit iOS

You might balk at the prospect of paying six hundred for a file manager app, but what an app this is. Transmit doesn't so much echo its OS X sibling as rethink it, offering remote and local server management (complete with drag and drop), document previews and editing, and iOS 8 Share Sheet compatibility, all wrapped up in one of the finest pieces of interface design to ever grace an iPhone or iPad. It's a defining app for iOS 8.

Stuff says ★★★★★
₹620 / iOS

FOR
MUSIC
NIGGLES

WhoSampled

If you've ever been listening to a track on the radio and got that nagging feeling it's pilfered a riff from elsewhere, WhoSampled is for you. On iOS for a while but new to Android, it has a massive browsable directory of artists and songs – use it to delve into who sampled and covered whom, and flick between YouTube videos to see how brazen they were. If you want to dig deeper, sign up to the WhoSampled community.

Stuff says ★★★★★
₹190 / iOS; £free / Android

FOR
PEACE
OF MIND

1Password

A useful but limited iOS app has just become essential, thanks to iOS 8's new powers. The result is greatly enhanced security, and the app adds further useful features such as storing multiple identities, secure notes, wallet entries and software licences. 1Password is also superior to iOS's iCloud Keychain in terms of cross-platform support and being able to edit on mobile devices. Download it now.

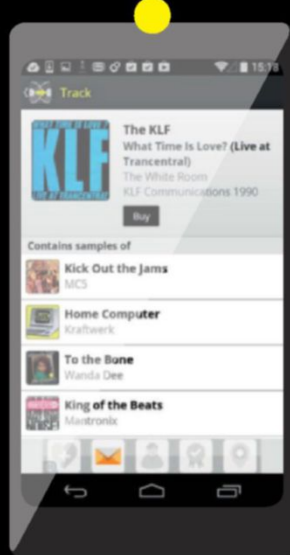
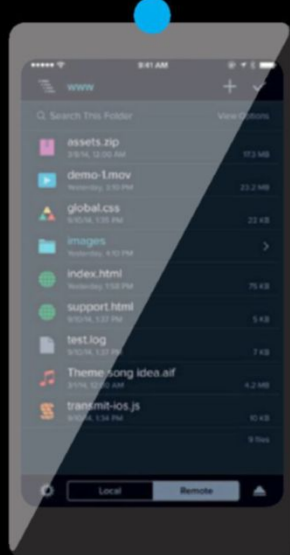
Stuff says ★★★★★
₹free / iOS

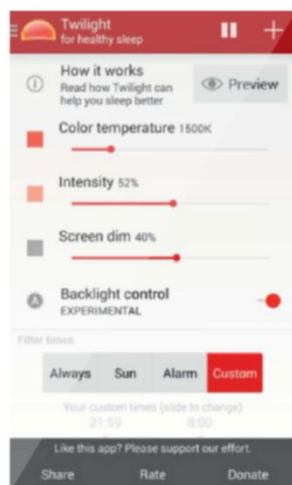
FOR
BEING
SHIFTY

CounterSpy

This is a sneaky side-scrolling spy-'em-up that's won our hearts with its snazzy art style and randomly generated levels. Set at the height of the Cold War, it casts you as a new spy recruit allied with neither the Soviets nor the West. Your task? To sneak into facilities and pilfer launch codes, all the while avoiding or eliminating guards. Packed with action and variety, it's one of the best games we've played in weeks.

Stuff says ★★★★★
₹300 / iOS; ₹301 / Android





● Twilight

The creators claim that blasting your retinas with the blue-white light from your smartphone screen interferes with your body's melatonin production, preventing you from getting to sleep. Twilight gradually shifts the colour temperature of your screen into the red end of the spectrum as the sun sets, making it easier on the eyes.

Stuff says ★★★★★

₹free / Android

Mini meme



WE'VE GOT SNOOZE FOR YOU

We spend a third of our lives sleeping, quite naturally. Well, that's not the *Stuff* way. Why not use tech to improve your kipping?



● Pzizz Sleep

This app uses a combination of neuro-linguistic programming and binaural beats – two tones of different frequencies, one played into each ear – to help you drift off. Each time you use the app the soundtrack's different, so it won't become over-familiar and you won't end up focusing on what's coming up next.

Stuff says ★★★★★

₹free / iOS



● Sleep Cycle Alarm Clock

This app turns your phone into a full-blown snooze tracker: stick it under your sheets and the app tracks your sleep patterns. As well as showing you how well you slept, it'll also let you set an alarm that wakes you during your lightest sleep phase in the morning so you'll be positively bounding out of bed.

Stuff says ★★★★★

from ₹99 / Android, iOS



● Rain, Rain Sleep Sounds

If you find falling water restful, this nature sounds app is the one for you. It provides you with every conceivable watery sound, from city rain to tent rain and full-blown downpours. You can also dial up other noises to help you nod off, including blizzards, crackling fire, and, oddly, home appliances. It takes all sorts.

Stuff says ★★★★★

₹free / iOS

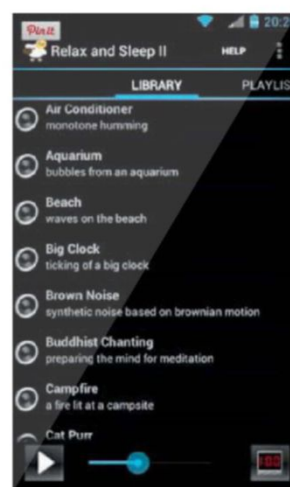


● Deep Sleep With Andrew Johnson

There are many sleep-inducing hypnosis apps out there, but Andrew Johnson's Scots burr makes this one the most soporific of all, gently wafting you into the arms of Morpheus using breathing exercises and guided meditation. For iOS users who still can't sleep, try his Infinite Relaxation app.

Stuff says ★★★★★

from ₹164 / Android, iOS

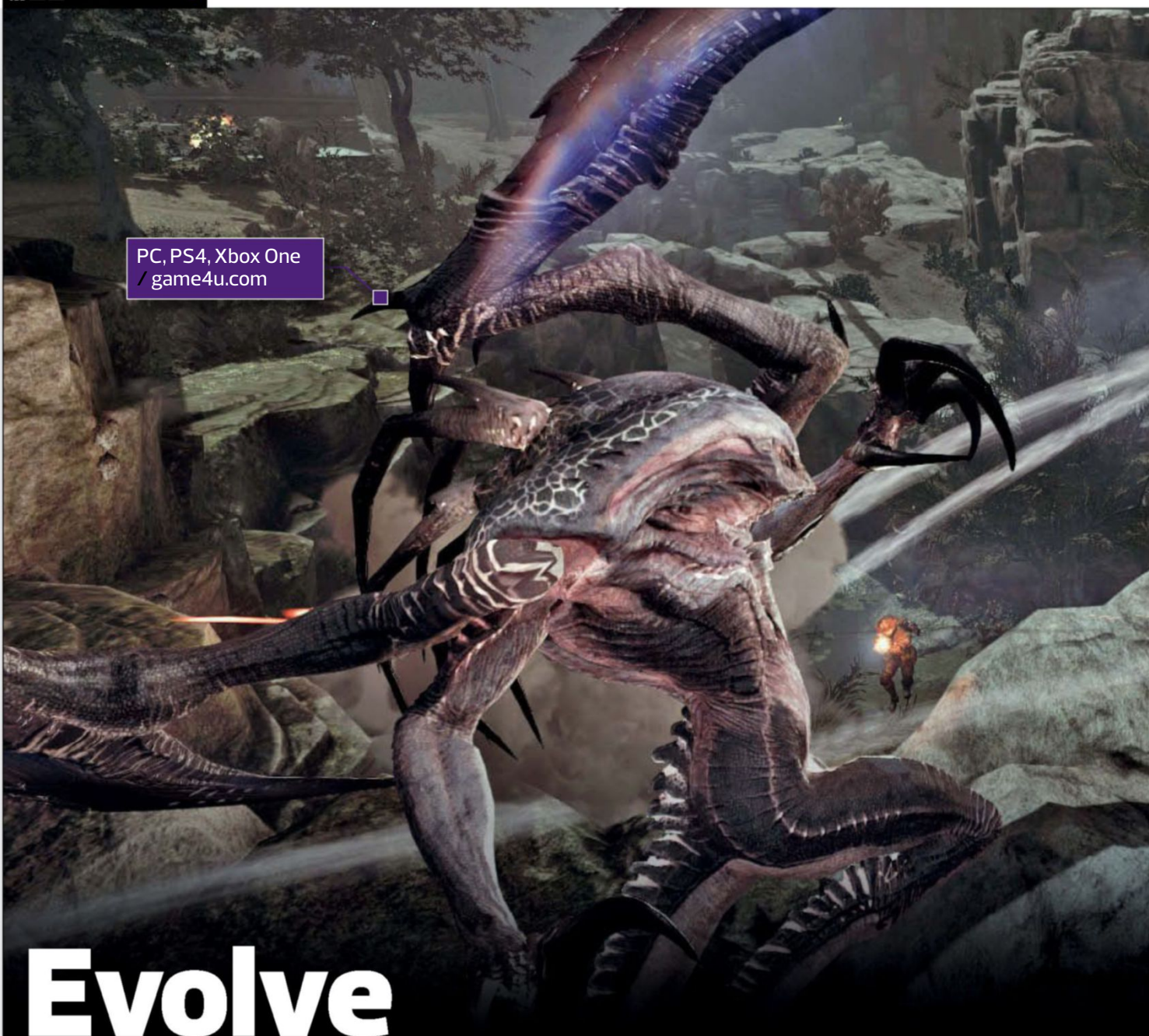


● Relax And Sleep II

This soundboard app lets you pick and choose from a range of relaxing noises, building up your own sleep soundscape. Some of them are obvious: summer rain, whale-song and so forth. Others are downright baffling: the combo of beating heart, creaking rocking chair and music box surely belongs in a horror film.

Stuff says ★★★★★

from ₹free / Android



Evolve

It promises to be the ultimate deathmatch, offering the chance either to hunt a huge alien monster or to be one... but can *Evolve* live up to its monster-sized hype?

There's no other game quite like *Evolve*, and having put hours into playing it, we think we know why: it's because it doesn't really know what it's trying to be.

The game revolves around team deathmatch, but these teams aren't equal — in numbers, anyway. This is four against one, with the one being a nasty monster and the four being hunters out to kill it.

At the beginning of each round the monster is fairly weak — it needs to put some distance

between itself and the hunters so it can devour the wildlife in order to evolve to its biggest, most dangerous form. Clearly that's not in the hunters' interests, so it's up to them to track the beast down while it's still manageable.

Within the team of hunters there are specific roles. The Trapper keeps the monster in place, the Assault deals the damage, and the Support and Medic try to keep everyone alive with shield buffs and healing. And this is the main problem: it's just too prescribed.

Success for the hunters revolves around everyone doing exactly the job they're supposed to do, which means teams that contain a weaker player are pretty much doomed, while teams full of pros will largely go through the same motions every time.

Stalking a huge beast through an alien jungle sounds thrilling, but it's too fast and too signposted to create tension: you just race along a path of glowing footprints. The controls are a bit imprecise, and the fact that all the characters

seem to be able to absorb huge amounts of damage makes every attack feel a bit pathetic.

The case isn't helped by an arcane pricing strategy: it's complex, but what it boils down to is that buying the game only gets you a few characters, and you have to buy the rest later as DLC.

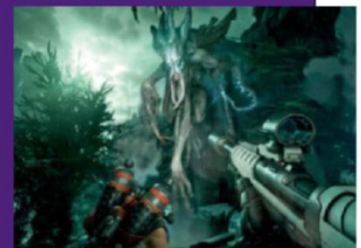
For a certain type of player (the ultra-competitive, e-sports-loving type) *Evolve* is a dream come true. But most gamers will struggle to find many long-term thrills in this hunt.

STUFF SAYS *Evolve* just isn't as much fun as it sounds, and that's a massive shame ★★☆☆☆



There are three monsters to unlock, and more to buy as DLC

You'll be fed up of the unfunny 'banter' within an hour



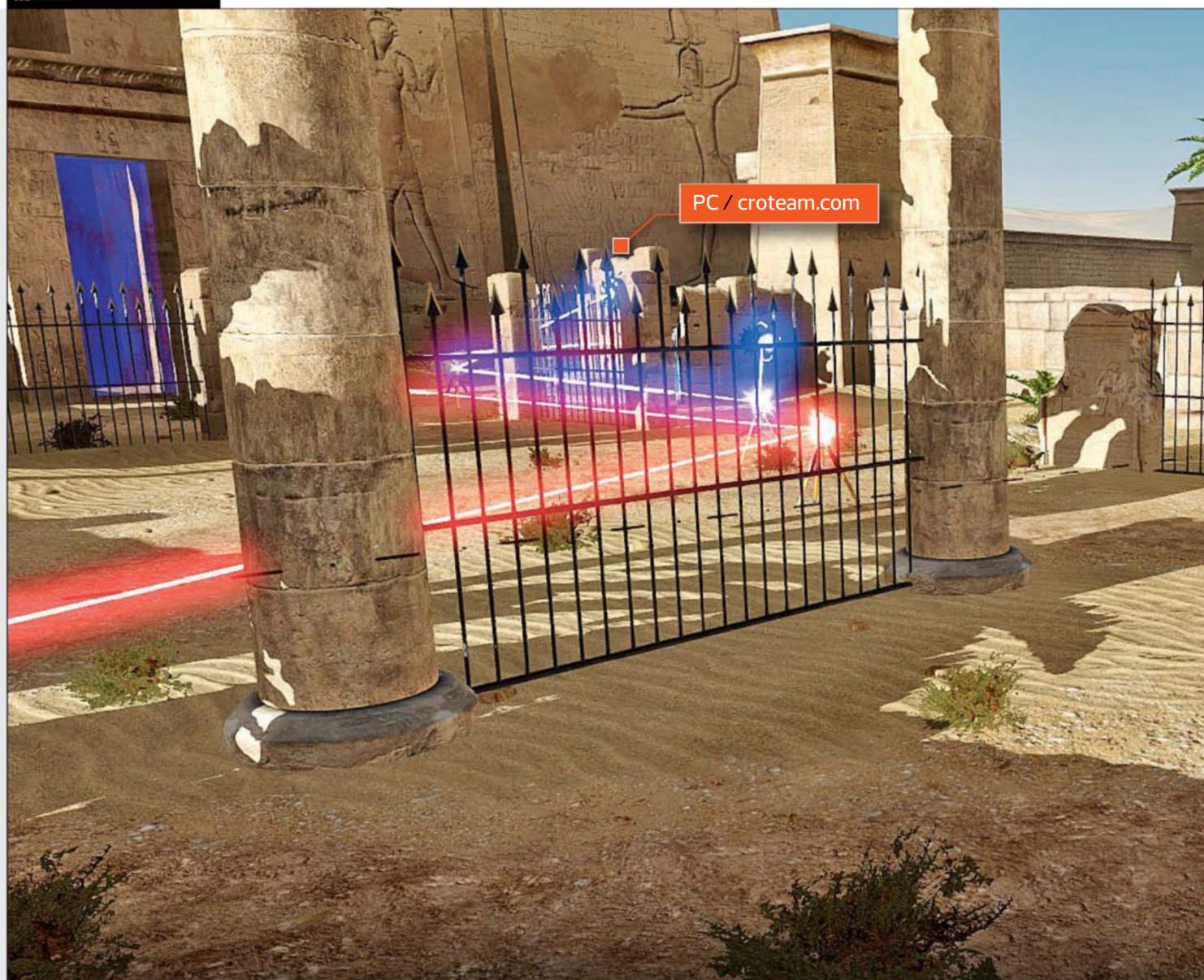
Hunting for story

So, what if you're after more than simple deathmatch? What if you want some story and some variation? *Evolve* does have a story mode, and it's interesting, if not quite what you'd expect.

For a start this is still deathmatch, but it's a string of five matches over different arenas and game modes, with the balance shifting depending on who won last. So if the hunters win a round, they might get enhanced automated turrets for the next one, making it harder for the monster – which, let's remember, has just lost. To counteract that, the monster gets a buff to its abilities. With one hand *Evolve* giveth, with the other it taketh away.

The different modes do inject a bit of variety, and the rescue mode neatly turns the tables with the hunters doing the running and the monster doing the stalking. And the overarching idea of evacuating a planet over a number of games gives some impetus to your actions – at least for the first couple of times.

But don't go thinking this is some epic yarn, and don't go thinking there's as much here for the solo player: you can play on your own, but the other roles will simply be filled by computer-controlled bots.



The Talos Principle

It's the end of the world as we know it, and I feel... metal? Wait, where are we? What are we? And just why are we firing lasers at doors to collect *Tetris* pieces?

There's not much mystery in games these days. Look at recent big hitters such as *Shadow Of Mordor* or *Far Cry 4* and you see a first half-hour of expositional cutscenes and a bombardment of instructional text that let you know almost exactly what's going on and how you interact with it. Which is fine, but leaves you little to ponder as you slash and shoot your way through the remaining hours of play.

But there are still some games that do things differently – games

that coax you in the right direction with intrigue and subtly designed gameplay mechanics – and *The Talos Principle* is the best example since the original *Portal*.

You're some kind of mechanised biped, that much you know. In the ruins of what seems to be an abandoned civilisation. And there's a godlike being calling you 'child' and urging you to complete puzzles to prove yourself so you can attain mortality.

You crack into these puzzles (well, why not?) and find that each

is a small maze containing doors that need to be unlocked by turning switches, or guiding lasers from source to receiver, and that each has at its heart a *Tetris*-like shape. Collect enough shapes and you can use them to complete a puzzle and unlock the door to a new area, or a tool that you need to complete future puzzles.

It sounds very simple, and in many ways it is, but the problems are so ingenious, the solutions so logical (even those that initially look impossible) and the learning

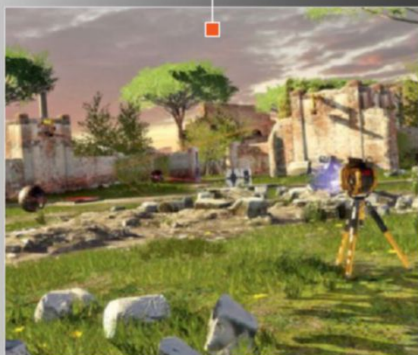
curve so perfectly judged that you'll be completely hooked to the game in no time. There are no fancy tricks here – it's just a case of thinking, unravelling the elements and utilising all the skills the game has already quietly taught you, and soon everything will come together in a moment of joyous satisfaction.

If *The Talos Principle* was nothing but the puzzles, it would still be pretty great. But the philosophical story gives it a bump and raises it up to brilliance.

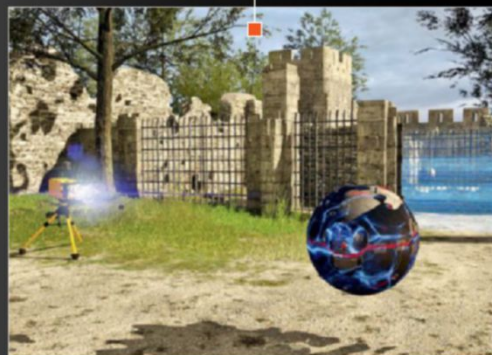
STUFF SAYS Beautifully presented and genuinely thought-provoking – utterly brilliant ★★★★★



There are three 'gardens' full of puzzles. It's sort of like *The Crystal Maze*



Why doesn't Elohim want you going into that tower?



Just what the heck is going on?

There are a lot of questions to concern yourself with when you're not redirecting drones and jamming sentry turrets. Questions such as "Who am I?", "What am I?", "What happened to everyone else?", "Is this a dream?", "Who made me?" and "What should I have for breakfast?". OK, maybe not that last one.

The game encourages musings on consciousness and what makes us human, and there's a constant philosophical battle going on between faith and science, the former represented by the celestial voice of Elohim, the latter by the Milton Library Assistant — a sort of helpful AI stored on a network that you interact with via terminals dotted around.

You can also view emails and sections of philosophical texts that gradually give you hints as to what happened to the people who may or may not have created you and the place where you find yourself.

And then there's the tower, looming over the land but strictly off limits according to Elohim. But wait — it *is* possible to get in there. And Elohim loses sight of you when you do. What does that mean? And what happens if you unlock the higher floors? There's only one way to find out...



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APRIL 2015

PVR PICTURES

Stuff
www.stuff.co.nz

PS4 / game4u.com

The Order: 1886

Victorian London has a werewolf problem. Fortunately, you have the fancy guns and even fancier mutton chops to solve it

Some people think value and quantity are inextricably linked. They think that if they get anything less than 50 hours of play from a game they've been ripped off.

We fall into the other camp: the camp that says the quality of the experience is what counts... and yet, even we have issues with the brevity of *The Order*.

It's not really that it's short, although ₹3999 for eight hours of gameplay (and we took it slowly) will definitely upset some people. It's that it ends so abruptly, and right at the point where you feel you're getting to the meat of the game. It's a bit like watching the pilot for a great TV series and then finding out it'll be two years before you see the next episode.

With the game being linear and lacking in significant collectables there's little reason to replay it, especially as there's no multiplayer or horde mode. This will be a regular at the trade-in counter.

It's a shame, because what there is of *The Order* is impressive

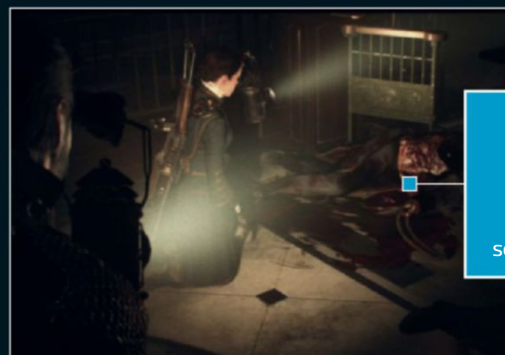
and enjoyable. Its knights-vs-werewolves plot is told through immaculate cutscenes that drip-feed background and plot points; the steampunk-ish tech and fantasy elements blend seamlessly with a vision of London in 1886 that oozes with authentic detail and texture; the weapons look, sound and feel experimental and genuinely unique, but they still make perfect sense.

The Order owes a great debt to *Gears Of War*. It's all crouching behind cover before popping out to take shots at your similarly ensconced enemies. There are fewer tactical options, though, with the action being far more directed and closed-in. You're playing a story here and deviation is not encouraged – a feeling that's backed up by the use of quick time events (those on-screen prompts to press certain buttons at the right time) for boss fights.

For us that's fine in a game with a great story, and this story is pretty great. Unfortunately, we also feel like we've only really experienced about a third of it.



Found a hair in your soup? Complain directly to the chef... with guns!



Tracking a werewolf through an abandoned hospital is scarily brilliant

STUFF SAYS Good while it lasts, but it's over before it really gets going ★★★☆☆

MWC 2015

GAME CHANGERS >>

Every year, Mobile World Congress welcomes the world to Barcelona, Spain to experience the very best, in mobile tech. While smartphones are usually the biggest draw, this year we spotted other drool-worthy products that tickled our tech nerve ends even more



UNFOLD, CLICK, ZOOM OFF IN STYLE

Ford MoDe:Me

This foldable e-Bike is a wicked new concept from the usually four-wheeled Blue Oval. Built with portability in mind, you can easily carry it on the train or pop it into the boot of your car. Thanks to a rear-facing ultrasonic sensor, the bike knows when you're about to be overtaken and sends a small vibration to the handlebars, which also light up to warn the passing driver. There are indicators and automatic brake lights, too. Clever tricks that help in its goal of being your go-to guy for commutes.

ford.com

CONNECTED APP

**MoDe:Link**

The bikes have a partner app called MoDe:Link which, apart from being used for navigation (the handlebars vibrate to tell you when to turn, and routes take into account the weather and public transport options), also control the amount of pedal assist provided by the electric motor. This can be tied to your heart rate, so assistance is automatically increased to keep you relaxed and sweat-free.



EXTREMELY FAST PIZZA EXPRESS

Ford MoDe:Pro

The more courier-oriented MoDe:Pro, on the other hand, can be transported in a van (which can have special mounts added), before it's unleashed and unfolded for its own transporting job. Like the MoDe:Me, it is foldable and has a 200-watt motor good for pedal-assisted speeds of 25kmph which – let's face it – is way faster than the average speed of Mumbai traffic.

ford.com



IT USES FREAKKIN' LASERS HTC VIVE

One of the most important features that sets the HTC Vive truly ahead of both the Oculus Rift and Sony's Project Morpheus is its Lighthouse tracking system which uses lasers to track you accurately up to 1/10th of a degree, within an area of 15x15 feet. What's more? You can walk around characters while inside a game.

The Vive is the only product here with a proper release date. HTC boss assured us that it'll hit markets around Christmas this year. But if you are telling us that the prospect of visiting planets light years away, from your couch, or being able to be inside a 3D game does not sound enticing, you probably are as warm as cryogen coated bacon.

VR is an inevitable future that will change the way we consume entertainment. Forever.

htc.com

FUELING THE FUTURE WRIST BAND RACE HTC Re Grip

Now, where have we seen a similar product? We will leave the guesswork to you and instead tell you that the new HTC Re Grip is a decent effort. It is at least a year later than it would have liked to hit the market, but it is promising. We like the bit that it features in-built GPS and you can even wear it in the shower thanks to its water-resistant nature. There.

htc.com





THE TIME STEELER

Pebble Time Steel

The new Pebble Time Steel can go up to 10 days on a single charge – that's three times more than the earlier Pebble. It will be offered in three metal finishes – silver, gold and gunmetal grey, and should hit stores in May. So hold on to the cash you have set aside for the iWatch.

pebble.com



WHO ARE WE TO QUESTION SUCH BRILLIANCE?

Huawei Watch

With a Sapphire crystal watch face and heavy inspiration from the best of Swiss watches, the Huawei Watch was surprisingly good to wear and use. It comes across as a genuinely solid foray into the smart watch arena by Huawei. And the fact that you can choose from over 40 (yes, 40) virtual watch faces is such a charm. No?

huawei.com



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PAZZ THE TABLET, PLEASE

Sony Xperia Z4 Tablet

As we walked into the Sony booth, there she lay, half submerged in water, with a body so thin, yet so gorgeous, we had dreams about it for two nights straight. She is Sony's new Z4 tablet and, sure enough, is hard to put down thanks to a 6.1mm frame, Retina-level display and 64-bit, Octa-core processing. Did we mention she's totally dust proof too?

While the choice is massive when it comes to buying Android tablets, there are few that nail it when it comes to design and features. There are even fewer that are capable of giving the iPad the chills. This one comes scary close.

sony.com

GIVE ME ALL THE MOVIES YOU GOT. NOW

SanDisk Ultra 200GB

Well, your taste has changed. You listen to uncompressed songs instead of MP3s, watch Full HD movies instead of SD rot and save photos in RAW format. Compression is not for a baller like you. SanDisk understands. When that new product supporting a 200GB micro SD card debuts, you will be ready.

sandisk.com



NERD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

La Tomatina may be all the rage across borders, but where we come from, there's another fruit that gets its own fest, and rightfully so. With new-found love for our favourite fruit juice, we take a tour of Sula Vineyards to see what the buzz is all about

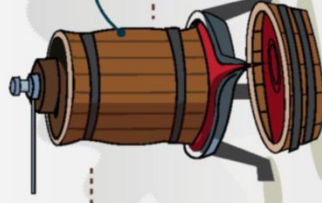
[Words: Farhan Kapadia, Illustrations: Kritika Dayal]

IN THE MAKING

That tantalising bottle of wine goes through a whole series of tech-laden processes before it tastes the way it does. We've broken down what is otherwise a highly complex task to six simple steps.



1
Harvesting
Taking place from Jan to Mar, grapes arrive nice and cold from the vineyard



2
Pressing
Italian pneumatic presses squeeze out the rich juice which is chilled to preserve aromas



3
Fermenting
Inoculated with selective yeast, the juice ferments in locally-made, temperature-controlled stainless steel tanks



4
Settling
Next, the wine's clarified by settling, and blended after careful sensory analysis by experts



5
Ageing
By now, most wines are ready for bottling, but reserves are placed in the brand's American / French / East European oak barrels for maturing



6
Bottling
Finally, each batch undergoes careful analysis for stability and quality before being bottled and slapped with the iconic label.



“IT TAKES GREAT GRAPES TO MAKE GREAT WINE. IT'S THE WINEMAKER'S JOB TO ARTICULATE A DEFINABLE STYLE FOR A WINE BUT YOU DON'T CREATE AN IDENTITY - THAT COMES FROM THE GRAPES, AND THE GRAPES' IDENTITY IS DIRECTLY LINKED TO WHERE AND HOW THEY ARE GROWN.”

Kerry Damskey,
Master Winemaker,
Consultant at Sula Vineyards

GOING GREEN

The good folks at Sula adopt every sustainable practice in the book to keep things eco-friendly. So, when you indulge in your juice of choice, Mother Earth approves.



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Coal and diesel power? No sir. This place is all about solar panels from Cogenira tech, skylights, LEDs and natural cooling. With their powers combined, these green practices save up on hundreds of thousands of kWh annually.



SUSTAINABLE WATER

With nearly half a million dollars invested in methods such as drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting, watershed management and effluent treatment plans, Sula uses 40 percent less water than traditional methods.



SUSTAINABLE VITICULTURE

The viticulture too is done the green way at Sula. Vermiposting, green fertilisation, goats grazing and pest management are just a few more ways of keeping things eco-friendly from the get-go.



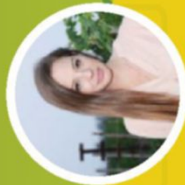
REDUCE



REUSE



RECYCLE



“NASHIK IS NOW KNOWN AS THE WINE CAPITAL OF INDIA WHERE WE HAVE SET UP A WINERY AND ALSO THE STANDARD AS FAR AS ECO-FRIENDLY WINEMAKING GOES. NOT JUST STANDARDS FOR INDIA, BUT FOR THE WINEMAKING INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE”

Cecilia Oldne,
Global Brand Ambassador, Head –
International Business, Sula
Vineyards

TRY THESE

The proof is in the pudding, they say, and these new stars in Sula's line-up have proven they're truly delectable. We'll just leave the wine speak to the experts, yeah?

DINDORI RESERVE SHIRAZ

"This is barrel-aged in American oak barrels, Shiraz blended with some Cabernet Sauvignon – full bodied, spicy, well balanced."



RASA SHIRAZ

"Our limited edition made only from 100% Shiraz aged mainly in French oak barrels for a year. Complex, smooth and has potential to age."



Sovna Puri,
Head – Tastings &
Trainings, Sula Vineyards

WINE TASTING

With great knowledge comes great love for wine. Or so we're told. We beg to differ with Pink Floyd, 'cause we do need this education.



TASTING EXPERIENCE

Absolute appreciation is only possible, says Sula, when customers try these wines at source. An in-house trainer and sommelier conducts WSET (Wine & Spirit Education Trust) courses to educate only those with the sincerest of love for the drink. sulawines.com

“SULA IS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER WINES AS IT IS A PIONEER IN MANY WINES AND STYLES THAT HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED LIKE THE FIRST INDIAN SAUVIGNON BLANC, THE FIRST (OFF-DRY) INDIAN CHENIN BLANC, THE ONLY INDIAN RIESLING”

Ajoy Shaw,
Chief Winemaker & Vice President,
Winemaking, Sula Vineyards



Stuff

BEST OF
WEARABLE
TECH



Wearable tech takes the stage

Wearable gadgets might once have been clumsy, half-developed things, but they've come of age. This year we've attached hundreds of devices to ourselves (not all at once) to bring you our favourites

Model Sonali Raut
Photographer Vikram Bawa
Styling Seher Khan
Makeup & Hair Elton Fernandez
Outfit Yellow Dress-Zara
Ring - Eina Ahluwalia

SONY SMARTWATCH 3

Hot on the heels (well, gently nipping at them, anyway) of the Motorola Moto 360 and LG G Watch R, comes Sony's third attempt at smartwatch mastery – the aptly named Sony Smartwatch 3.

It's the first Android wear device to pack in GPS powers, alongside Google's standard smattering of wearable OS smarts. The Sony Smartwatch 3 has the brains of a Google watch, coupled with GPS skills for fitness fans, with plenty of power and decent battery life. But its screen does let it down and it's not as attractive as its Motorola and LG rivals, which for a wearable device should be considered a bit of a flaw.

On the other hand, it certainly feels like the most robust of the lot. Overall, if you're after the smarts of Android Wear and are a regular runner, then it's definitely worth a look.



HANDS-ON
FARHAN KAPADIA EDITOR (WEB),
STUFF.TV/IN

Dressed in a black suit, metal clasp, IP68 water and dust-proofing, this watch means business. More curiosity-rousing than head-turning, it's for folk who like their tech discreet and functional. Comes bundled with that reassuring built-to-last feel.



▲ RAZER OSVR

OK, so some areas of wearable tech are still at the prototype stage, but that doesn't mean they're not worth getting excited about. In fact, since Oculus first unveiled its Rift developer kit, the gaming community has been squirming in its seat like a puppy full of energy drinks in fervent anticipation of the Age of Virtual Reality. Razer's OSVR is, like the Rift, a dev kit, and it's the good kind: the 'OS' stands for Open Source, meaning people can build software and hardware for it using any operating system – yes, even Windows. You can get CAD files to 3D-print it, although the comparatively bargainous \$200 price tag means that probably won't be necessary. The unit we saw was paired up with a Leap Motion controller, so it can even recognise hand gestures.

razerzone.com



HANDS ON TEIN HEE SEOW STUFF SINGAPORE

Razer's headset fitted snugly, and while it was still wired to a laptop, there were no physical controls attached. During the demo, I used gestures to sling fireballs while frantically turning my head in search of the ghostly targets. It's early days, so the controls were a little buggy, but it's moving in the right direction.

The OSVR's goggles house a 5.5in, 1080p display that can be replaced with a phone, so you can use it to build PC games, Android apps or anything else you think might work for virtual reality.



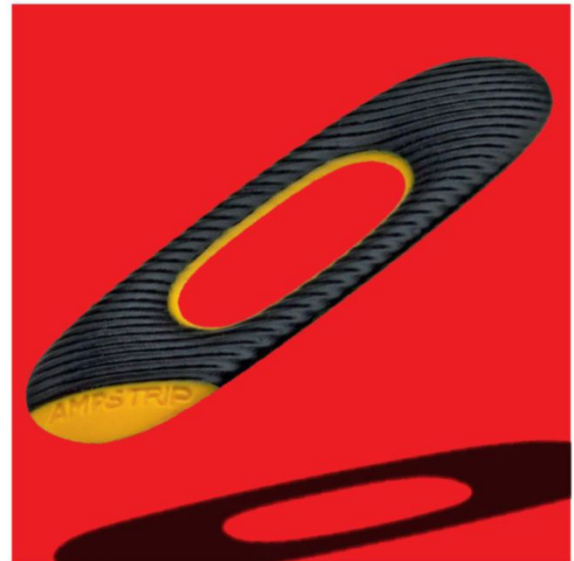
AMPSTRIP

Think fitness wearable, and your first thought will almost certainly be 'watch'.

But watches are so passé. What you really want is an invisible, strapless tracker that monitors your every move 24/7. One day, embeddable trackers will do all this for us, but until then there's this. AmpStrip is a plaster, basically, worn on the left side of your chest where your heartbeat's strongest. And it only needs removing once a week for a wireless charge of the batteries and change of adhesive strip.

The rest of the time you can swim, run and cycle, with the partner app letting you know exactly how hard you're working. This is the future of fitness trackers, and it's available from August.

ampstrip.com



SENSORIA FITNESS SOCKS

Socks? Really? Yes, really – because these aren't just any old foot-gloves. These socks contain dual sensors, one under the ball of your foot and another underneath the heel, that measure the impact of running on your feet before sending the data to the tracker attached to the sock.

Small increases in your step rate can reduce unnecessary pressure on your hip and knee joints, helping to reduce running-related ailments. Real-time audio feedback helps you keep to the desired number of steps per minute so that you can improve your run by subtly adjusting your gait. You can even view a heat-map of your feet in the accompanying app, seeing which areas you predominantly land on.

sensoriafitness.com



BELTY

If your competitive eating habit has meant you piled on the poundage over Christmas, this smart belt will be a

godsend: it eases the pressure on your expanding waistline by loosening itself as you sit down, thanks to a small motor in the buckle. But it's not just about making life easy for you. The belt also packs an accelerometer and gyroscope, syncing with an app to track your movement. If you stay still for too long – or if the belt finds that your growing girth is cause for concern – it'll prompt you to get up and do some exercise. Yes, it's pretty silly and surely not as useful as the other fitness trackers here. But sometimes silly is OK, especially when it's as clever as Bely.

emiota.com





GARMIN VIVOACTIVE

The Vivoactive is the Jessica Ennis of timepieces, combining a staggering array of sporting talents in a remarkably svelte form. There's daily activity tracking, deeper GPS-based analysis for triathletes, plus Bluetooth notifications from iOS or Android.

Throw in Garmin's Connect IQ store and you have the makings of an Olympic champ. garmin.com



LOOKSEE

Like chicken tikka pasta (yes, we've had it) the LookSee combines two unlikely bedfellows to brilliant effect. An E Ink smart bracelet with a one-year battery, it has hundreds of patterns to choose from, or you can make your own. With support for iOS notifications, it proves jewellery and wearable tech really can be a great combination. lookseelabs.com



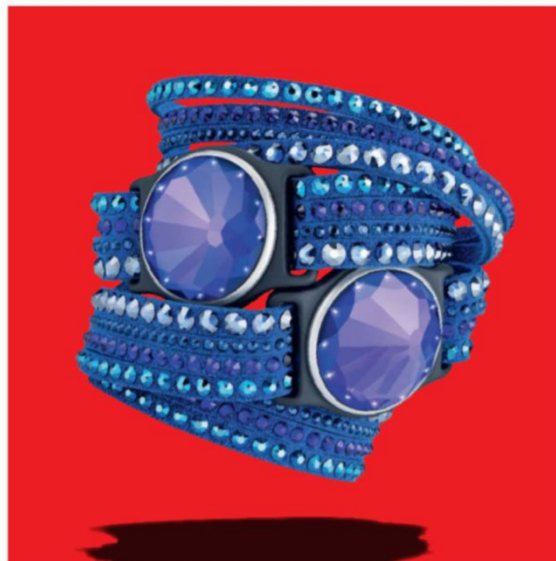
MISFIT SWAROVSKI SHINE

This bling-encrusted activity tracker solves one of the main problems of wearable tech: power. Craftily concealed solar cells turn light from the sun, LEDs and halogen lights into enough juice to power its fitness- and sleep-tracking talents. Sparkly wearables that don't need charging? Make us a Mr T version and we're in, fool. misfit.com



SONY SMART B TRAINER

Sony's lughole-based personal trainer will give you ears of steel. The prototype running gadget uses GPS and a heart-rate monitor to track your progress, telling you when you need to speed up and switching your music to something more fast-paced by way of encouragement. Whether our legs will respond remains to be seen. sonymobile.com



ALCATEL ONETOUCH WATCH

A smartwatch is one thing. A smartwatch that costs US\$149 is another. A smartwatch that works with iOS and Android is yet another. The Alcatel OneTouch Watch is all of those. It runs on a proprietary OS that can play with phones from Apple and Google, and is appropriately nosy when it comes to your wellbeing, keeping several eyes on you with a heart-rate monitor, accelerometer, gyroscope, altimeter and compass, as well as sleep-tracking, steps, distance and calorie monitoring. It'll receive notifications and control your tunes, the battery lasts 2-5 days, and four finishes are available: dark red and black, white, chrome, and metal-white. If this budget wristputer delivers on its promises, it could be the one that brings smartwatches to the masses.

alcatelonetouch.com



The OneTouch's low price comes at, er, a price. It won't work with Google Now's voice commands and the extent of iOS notification support is still up in the air.



HANDS ON JOHN STEWARD STUFF CONTRIBUTOR

Rather than swiping straight at the OneTouch's screen to bring up its menus, you tap it at the bottom first. Tapping the right spot can be hit and miss, possibly because the watch is a touch smaller than Moto's 360. Still, that'll be welcome to those put off smartwatches thus far by the slight chunkiness of their bodies.

Stuff India

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ELECTRONIC MUSIC

Bored of stale guitar riffs and generic indie? DJ and *Mixmag* tech writer Gavin Herlihy reveals how to turn your laptop into your favourite musical instrument

THE BASICS

■ Choose your station.

A Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) is the production software you'll use to create your electronic music. Each one has different attributes so do some research. Garageband, Ableton Live and the newer Bitwig are the most beginner-friendly.

■ **Start with a beat.** The most common way to start a track is hammering out a beat with a Music Production Centre (MPC) or a drum machine like Maschine (native-instruments.com). The latter helps you build rhythm loops without a mouse slowing your flow.



■ **Borrow sounds.** Bringing in a new element from the outside world can open doors to your track's direction, so download lots of samples. Bear in mind that the better the audio source, the better your tracks will sound, so get digging through your vinyl collection rather than ripping MP3s from YouTube.

■ **Warm up.** Begin each session by jamming along to your favourite tracks. Playing along to the different elements will help warm your brain up to the task ahead.

■ **Learn from the masters.** Compile a list of tracks you wish you had made. Work out what makes them tick so you can apply these features yourself.

■ **Be minimalist.** Most DAWs contain a mind-boggling array of applications and effects, so keep it simple to begin with: just pick a monophonic synth, a polyphonic synth, a beat-making plug-in and a sampler so you can learn them inside-out.

FOSTER THE PEOPLE



Region: MIDI Thru

Groups

Track: Lead Vocal A

Setting

Molena Mix

EQ

Gain

Multiplier

Match EQ

Auto Limit

MultiMeter

Send

Stereo Out

Read

+0.2

0.0

Brice

Lead Vocal A

Output 1-2

Edit Functions View

1 Lead Vocal A

2 Lead Vocal B

3 Backing Vocals Stack

19 Distorted Guitar

20 Bass Cut Up

21 Synth Stack

46 Acoustic Drum Stack

53 EIDrum Stack

63 Percussion Stack

69 FX

Compare

© MASCHINE STUDIO



NEXT STEPS

■ **Avoid clutter.** Don't accumulate lots of plug-ins. They slow down your computer and your learning progress. Instead of flicking endlessly through presets, learn to create the sounds in your head by watching YouTube tutorials of your favourite plug-ins.

■ **Multi-task.** Rather than fighting it out for weeks trying to create one song, try working on two or three at once. Rotating through your projects will give you a sense of perspective for what's working and what's not.



STUDIO BOOSTERS

■ **Get MIDI.** If you want to stick with software instruments, use a good MIDI controller to record automation changes. This will liven up your compositions.

■ **Go analogue.** Analogue synthesizers have a denser sound than digital, and jamming away on hardware often breaks up the monotony of staring at screens and clicking mice.

■ **Use a sequencer or arpeggiator.** These throw random MIDI patterns at your synths and help you play with your filters until something jumps out at you.



MIXING TRICKS

■ **Take the bus.** Mix bus channels help you tweak levels and add effects to groups of tracks, helping you mesh them together for your stereo master.

■ **Turn everything down to turn it up.** High frequency elements can often overpower a mix, so start low and turn them up carefully one at a time.

■ **Use channel EQ.** High-pass EQ settings shave the lower end off individual channels to create space in a mix. Aside from kick and bass, most instruments don't need those potentially muddying low frequencies.



FINISHING TOUCHES

■ **Take a break.** When you have a rough version finished, leave your track alone for a bit. When you return you'll know instantly if it's finished or not.

■ **Invest in good monitors.** Pull them away from the wall and use acoustic foam and bass traps to improve the acoustics.

■ **Become a master.** Final mastering is best left to the pros, but if you need a rough master, apply a multi-band compressor, a stereo widening tool and – last in the chain – a limiter to the master channel before bouncing.

LEVEL UP WITH...



MACPROVIDEO
from \$25/month /
macprovideo.com

Before YouTube and the rise of the video tutorial, learning to produce music was a mind-numbingly difficult process made insufferable by manuals. These days you don't need to read a book as thick as your forehead when there are sites like this devoted to advancing your knowledge.



DUBSPOT
Free / dubspot.com

A massive internet hub for music production, Dubspot is one of the world's most trusted online schools for learning how to produce tracks. Crammed full of articles, interviews with professionals and video tutorials, it focuses on the real nitty gritty of electronic music production, spanning a wide spectrum of DAWs and equipment.



SOUND ON SOUND
£4 per issue /
soundonsound.com

It might be a touch on the serious side, but this music tech mag (founded in the mid-'80s) remains the best destination for in-depth kit reviews. All articles are archived online, and the tablet version for iOS and Android lets you listen to 'before' and 'after' mixes to help hone your musical ear.

BETA
YOURSELF

HI-FI

So, your Grundig boombox has finally packed in and it's time to build a new hi-fi system. Where to start? *What Hi-Fi?* UK editor Simon Lucas shares his pearls of audiophile wisdom

THE BASICS

■ **Start at source.** Where is the music for your hi-fi coming from? Your huge collection of CDs? Those vinyl LPs that are finally coming back into fashion? The files on your computer and phone? Or a streaming service?

■ **Choose your style.** Is this hi-fi system confined to one room? Or do you want music to follow you wherever you go? Multi-room audio is booming, but it's not automatically your first choice where sound quality's concerned.

■ **Set a budget.** No matter if your idea of 'hi-fi' is a single



mains-powered speaker with a Bluetooth connection to your phone, or a whole rack's worth of amplifier, CD player, turntable, streamer, network-attached storage and a pair of speakers – stick to your budget.

■ **Prioritise.** Be honest: do you want your money to buy the best sound possible, or do you want

it to buy as much futuristic gadgetry as it can? The best kit isn't necessarily the coolest.

■ **Plan ahead.** It's like a job interview: where do you see yourself in five years' time? If you imagine your system expanding into more rooms, say, or incorporating some home cinema action, you need to factor it in now.

■ **Audition.** A hi-fi store is a rare sight these days, but there's no substitute for hearing the products on your shortlist before you commit the cash. And it's ultimately less of a pain than having to keep sending things back to Amazon.



SYSTEM MATCHING

■ **Check compatibility.**

If you have a record player, you'll need an amp with a phono stage. For wireless speakers, make sure your home network's up to the strain.

■ **Don't overdo it.** The bassiest amplifier, driving the bassiest speakers, will end up – yes – sounding too bassy.

■ **It can all be hi-fi.** Plugging a laptop straight into an amplifier seldom ends well. But using a dedicated off-board DAC like an AudioQuest Dragonfly turns your laptop into a hi-fi component in the blink of an eye.



LEVEL UP WITH...

THE BLOG
THE AUDIOPHILE
theaudiophile.net

A supergroup of India's biggest hi-fi nerds (that's a compliment) offers tips, expert guidance and (mostly) impartial advice on every aspect of researching, demo-ing, buying and maintaining your hi-fi kit. It's rather old-school, but none the worse for it.

THE BOOK
GET BETTER SOUND
getbetersound.com

Billed as 'the setup manual your system wants', this guide written by Jim Smith, an audio consultant with over 35 years' experience in the field, doesn't advise you to just spend more money. Instead, it discusses practical ways to get better performance from the kit you already own, in order to reach your full audiophile potential.



SETTING UP

■ **Get into position.** Put the speakers as level with your head as possible and closer to each other than they are to you.

■ **Don't interfere.** Interference (electrical and physical) can ruin the sound of your hi-fi, so make sure equipment is isolated: ideally electronics on a rack and speakers on stands.

■ **Care and attention.** Don't play records that are thick with dust, CDs that are covered in thumb-prints or music on a speaker that's down to its last 3% of battery life. All these could create problems in your system.



DIGITAL DOMAIN

■ **Archive properly.** Digitising your music collection only needs doing once. LAME (rarewares.org) is a brilliant MP3 encoder — use it with Exact Audio Copy (exactaudiocopy.de) to keep it sounding pristine.

■ **Pay the premium.** The likes of HD tracks.com and (channelclassics.com) let you buy high-res files. They cost more, but they offer more detail than the ones you stream.

■ **Make the most of iTunes.** Get into the 'preferences' menu and have a proper experiment with the equalizer settings.



FINISHING TOUCHES

■ **Keep tweaking.** The spikes on your stands will need tightening. Your speaker cable will oxidise and need trimming. The arm on your record player will need realigning too.

■ **Don't rush to judge.** Most box-fresh electronics can take hours to reach their full potential, and speakers (which rely more on physical movement) can sometimes take days or even weeks.

■ **Safe storage.** Store your records vertically and, as with CDs, don't expose them to extremes of temperature.

THE VIDEO
DO'S AND DON'TS
OF ROOM SET-UP
bit.ly/roomsetup

It's a little on the dry side, but this free five-minute primer on hi-fi positioning is all good common-sense stuff. No room is perfect (unless all it has in it is hi-fi, of course), but there's a lot of practical advice on basic pitfalls and managing 'reflections'.

haymarket

WHAT HI-FI? magazine has gone digital.

Now available on Apple and Android devices.



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All you need to do is download the free 'Magzter' app and get your copy now.

Apple users can download Magzter from the 'App Store'.

Android users can download Magzter from 'Android Market'.

Try it out today.





IF NOTHING ELSE, AT LEAST...

**...PRINT A
NEW FACE**

Whether you've been invited to a dog-themed New Year's party or just fancy looking like a Stormtrooper for the day, these home-made masks are here to help.

1. Go to wintercroft.com
and head to the 'shop' section. Here you'll find masks for every occasion, be it a beagle birthday bash or hare-themed heist.

2. Chosen your mask? You'll get a link to download the PDF, which can be printed on A4 paper or, if your printer allows, **card** that's ideally about the thickness of a cereal box.

3. Cut out the design, score along the lines and fix the edges together with invisible tape. Use acrylic car spray paint to decorate your mask, and attach a piece of elastic to keep it in place.



**...MAKE A
WORD CLOUD**

And not just those retro tag clouds – this web app lets you make poster-worthy word art from virtually any source...

1. Choose the 'source' for your word cloud – it can be a website, a song or, if you're an egomaniac, your personal Twitter feed. Go to tagxedo.com and click 'create'.

2. In the Tagxedo Creator, click 'load' and either enter your source's URL or paste in the text you want word-clouded. Now fiddle with the colours, themes and shapes.

3. All done? Click 'save' to export it, or hit 'gift' to see your creation on various gift options, including a T-shirt, mug, card or even an apron (please don't give someone a word cloud apron).



**...TURN YOUR
HANDWRITING
INTO A FONT**

Tired of Times New Roman?
Had it with Helvetica? Time to make a personal font with this handy free site...

1. Head to [paintfont.com](https://www.paintfont.com) and go to the 'selected characters' box. Choose the letters and symbols you want to be included in your font, then click 'create template'.

2. You'll be presented with a grid containing your chosen characters. Print this out, grab a Sharpie and fill out the template.

3. Now scan this sheet (or take a snap on your phone) and go to 'upload filled out templates'. You'll get a preview and a file of your font to install on your computer. Commence typing, possibly with a **fresh resolve** to improve your handwriting.



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Q PERFECT FIT

Hi doctor, I'm trying to get fitter to combat the effects of sitting in front of a screen all day. But I have no idea which fitness band or smartwatch to go for, there are so many out there now! Please help.

Helena Sengupta

A A noble cause, congrats.

Go for the Sony Smartwatch 3 (₹19,990, sony.co.in). Not only does it look stylish, but has a lot to offer too. It can measure the distance you have travelled and your heart rate as well. It has built-in GPS and compass which will show you the way back home if you get lost in the city.

**Q THE HUNT FOR THE MAGIC BOX**

I use a jailbroken Apple TV 2 with XBMC Gotham to stream all my home media, but despite it being on a powerline network, I still get stuttering playback problems. I'm thinking about a Boxee, but they seem to have dropped off the face of the earth. All I want is a box that plays my media and sits under the TV – what's your recommendation?

Deepal Das

A The Google Chromecast (₹2999, play.google.com)

won't break the bank, yet you can plug it into your TV's HDMI input and be up and streaming in minutes using the Plex media streaming app, available from the Play Store. It's also a great way to inject other online services and apps into your TV, and it avoids living-room cabinet clutter too. Even if your TV doesn't have a USB port to power it, you can use a regular plug to juice it up. Happy watching, Deepal.

Q TAKE YOUR TABLET

My mum's looking for an Android tablet with a big screen

for easy reading and movies, for around ₹26,000. I know that's not a high-end price, but ideally we still want something that's fast and smooth without any slow-down. Any suggestions?

Johnson Nadar

A There are so many Android tablets out there, it's easy to get lost. After a bit of hunting, we reckon the Samsung Galaxy Tab 4 T531 is the way to go. Its quad-core insides, lovely big screen and lightweight build should tick all the right boxes.

Q JOINING THE DARK SIDE

Here's a conundrum for you, Stuff. My girlfriend's iPhone 4 is starting to die, so a replacement is in order. She is very much attached to the premium touchy-feely thing. Loves the glass and metal, and the weight. No interest in larger flagship phones. Not even an iPhone 5. So this is my chance to drag her over to Android. What are your thoughts?

Dinno Bahrani

A Ah, yes. Recruiting an Apple-ite into the Android

camp – Cupertino's worst nightmare. The Sony Xperia Z3 Compact is the one you want. It's small but packs the full power of a flagship smartphone, with the latest quad-core insides and a 20.7MP camera. It's slathered in glass and – although the sides are plastic – it still feels solid rather than cheap.



QUICK HEAL

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GAADI JEETO

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HOT
BUY

1

**Motorola Moto X**

After the Moto X, you won't want to go back to any other Android. It's smart, fast and beautifully crafted. Motorola's software works together seamlessly to make your life that bit easier and its brilliant Bamboo option sets it apart from any other top-spec smartphone out there. The Motorola feels like it's built for everyone, something made even sweeter by the price. It's no budget Moto G, but it is a reasonable ₹32,999 for the 32GB model. Who could say no to that?

STUFF SAYS

The first truly gorgeous, seriously specced Android phone that puts you in control – it's brilliant

from ₹29,999 ★★★★★

2

**HTC One M8**

After a few months at the top of the charts, the HTC One M8 is outdone by the brilliant new Moto X. But that doesn't make it any less capable as a smartphone, thanks to its all-metal build, Ultrapixel camera and beautiful Sense 6.0 skin. We still love you, M8.

₹49,990
★★★★★

BEST FOR
BUILD AND
POWER

3

**Apple iPhone 6**

With its slim, deeply attractive build and software overhaul, the iPhone 6 is the freshest-feeling iPhone in years. Its larger screen is big enough to be a useful improvement, with gorgeous colours, and this is Apple's best-ever battery.

from
₹53,500
★★★★★

4

**LG G3**

LG surprises us again. There's barely a single thing wrong with the G3... and so, so much that's right. Upgrades range from sleeker back buttons to the bigger, better 2K screen and laser-assisted camera. And it still lasts 15 hours. How do they do it?

₹52,000
★★★★★

5

**Sony Xperia Z3 Compact**

Okay, so there wasn't any Z2 Compact in the middle, but the Z3 Compact is here now to give you a powerful-yet-conveniently-sized smartphone. It's everything the Z3 is, except for the smaller 4.6in 720p display. Take that, iPhone 6.

₹38,990
★★★★★

BEST FOR
DAINTY HANDS

6

**Sony Xperia Z3**

The Z2 launched not too long ago, but we're already looking at the Xperia Z3. The slight improvements are incremental updates to the software, audio performance, build and screen brightness, which make this a capable successor.

₹41,990
★★★★★

BEST FOR
THE
CONNOISSEUR

7

**Samsung Galaxy Note 4**

Samsung was first at the phablet game, and with the Note 4, it's still the best. The ace camera, Multi Window feature and pressure-sensitive S Pen make proper use of the extra screen real estate. Plus, its battery goes longer than any 2K phone we've tested.

₹58,300
★★★★★

BEST FOR
PHABLET FANS

8

**Motorola Moto G (2014)**

When the specs go up but the price comes down, you know Motorola mean business. The new Moto G makes some improvements over the 2013 variant, including a bigger screen, better cam and stereo front speakers, all while dropping the price. Brilliant VFM.

₹12,999
★★★★★

BEST FOR
RECESSION -
BUSTING

9

**OnePlus One**

Believe the hype. To get one of the best smartphones on the planet, you don't need ₹50,000 any more. You just need an invite. In terms of design, performance, screen and battery life you simply can't get better than this for anywhere near ₹25,000.

₹21,999
★★★★★

BEST FOR
VALUE FOR
MONEY

10

**Oppo Find 7**

It's India's first 2K display smartphone, and we love it. Beautifully built and with a screen that makes everything else look sub-standard, the Oppo Find 7 also runs Android 4.3 on a Snapdragon 801 SoC with 3 gigs of RAM. 'Nuff said.

₹37,990
★★★★★

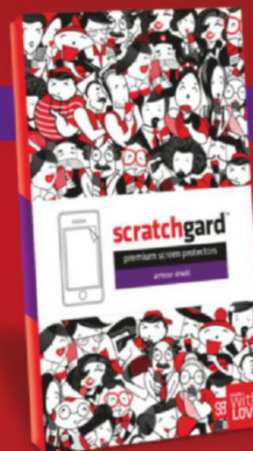
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HOT BUY 1		Apple iPad Air 2 The iPad Air didn't really need to be thinner, but that doesn't mean 6.1mm isn't mighty impressive. This combines with reassuring weight and impeccable build quality to make this the most desirable tab on the planet. While the display is the same Retina resolution as before, clever screen tech brings the pixels closer to the surface, and the whole experience is even faster than before thanks to the new A8X chip. Basically it's the best tablet in the world made even better.	STUFF SAYS Thinner, lighter and mightier: Apple's iron-fisted reign at the top of the tablet charts continues unabated from ₹35,900 ★★★★★
2		Apple iPad Mini 2 With Retina Display The iPad Mini 3 is out now but all it adds is Touch ID. The good news is that the Mini 2 is now down to ₹21,900, which is frankly bargain-tastic. That's why the 'old' model makes it to our Top 10 – if you're after a mini-tablet of quality, your choice has just got easier.	from ₹21,900 ★★★★★
3		Samsung Galaxy Tab S 10.5 Samsung has blessed the Galaxy Tab with one of the best tablet screens we've ever laid eyes on, plus an impressive camera and some incredible stamina – but there are performance niggles and Apple's tablet app selection is still far superior.	₹38,900 ★★★★★ BEST FOR MAGAZINES AND MOVIES
4		Microsoft Surface Pro 3 At last, Microsoft has delivered on the promise of the tablet-cum-laptop hybrid. It proves there's space in the world for a design that's more productive than an iPad or Galaxy Note, but easier to hump around than a traditional laptop.	from ₹61,267* ★★★★★ BEST FOR USING ANYWHERE
5		Asus Transformer Book T100 This 10.1in tab-and-dock combo has enough grunt to run full Win 8.1 thanks to Intel's new Baytrail CPU. The 1366x768 screen is a good'un, with crisp text, great contrast and colours that pop, while dual-band Wi-Fi and a day-long battery are also welcome.	from ₹26,000 ★★★★★ BEST FOR WINDOWS LOYALISTS
6		Google Nexus 9 The design isn't as pristine, but this is a real Android contender to rival the iPads. You get the new Android 5.0 Lollipop software, bags of power and a super-sharp display. With 12 hours of video play and two front-facing speakers, it'll be a great film buddy.	from ₹28,900 ★★★★★
7		Samsung Galaxy Tab S 8.4 Samsung's superb screen, design, performance and a wider selection of optimised apps mean that against many other Android tabs it's still a winner. However, the new low price for the iPad Mini 2 makes the Galaxy Tab S 8.4 look rather pricey.	₹27,900 ★★★★★☆
8		Lenovo ThinkPad Tablet 2 You're a high flyer. You have work to do and neither iOS or Android has the oomph. You need the Windows 8 Pro-running Tablet 2. It lasts all day, is powerful enough for full-fat desktop software and with the keyboard dock it's an ultraportable laptop.	₹50,000 ★★★★★☆ BEST FOR DESKTOP VERSATILITY
9		Sony Xperia Tablet Z Sony just refuses to play by the rules. Stretching its stylish Xperia Z smartphone out to 10in should have made it thicker, but it hasn't; less crisply screened, but it isn't; and not waterproof, but it is. The price for this extreme engineering, however, is high.	₹30,990 ★★★★★☆ BEST FOR BATH-BASED TABLET FUN
10		Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1 (2014) The new 10.1 is fit to bursting with clever tricks, comes with the note-tastic S Pen and has a stunning 2560x1600 screen. But while we can forgive its tacky looks, minor performance glitches deny it that fifth star; we hope firmware updates will fix them.	₹24,990 ★★★★★☆



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HOT BUY	1		Bose SoundTouch 20 All this time, if you wanted a true multi-room system, you had no choice but to go the Sonos way. It took long enough, but we finally have an option, and one that you can buy at your friendly neighbourhood mall with zero effort. The Bose SoundTouch system wirelessly connects with your computer or NAS device and streams directly using your home's Wi-Fi network. Multiple SoundTouch devices mean you can control what you want playing in which room. We love it.	STUFF SAYS Infinite music in every room without the need for custom installers? Sign us up now, please ₹33,638 ★★★★★
	2		Naim Mu-so ₹1,00,000 for a wireless speaker?! Well yes, but what a wireless speaker it is. Naim has ploughed all of its high-end hi-fi experience into delivering a beautifully made, great-sounding device with AirPlay, streaming and aptX Bluetooth all on-board.	₹1,00,000* ★★★★★ BEST FOR ONE-BOX WI-FI HI-FI
NEW	3		Monitor Audio Airstream S200 It may look a bit like a floppy skyscraper, but the Monitor Audio's Bluetooth-plus-AirPlay speaker makes a lot of sense, mostly because it takes up very little shelf/desk/table space but makes loads of lovely noise. It's a bit of a steal at ₹42k.	₹42,200 ★★★★★
	4		Cambridge Audio Go There are loads of very cheap Bluetooth speakers out there, but we reckon it's worth spending that little bit more to get something that's really good – and that's the Go. It sounds awesome, it's really nicely built and its battery lasts a massive 18 hours.	₹12,500 ★★★★★ BEST FOR PICNIC PARTIES
	5		Bowers & Wilkins Z2 The baby of B&W's AirPlay range is a little belter, and it adds a proper Lightning dock to Apple's wireless tech. It'll easily fill a small to medium-sized room with chunky bass, punchy beats and lovely, clear vocals. You'll buy it for the look, but love it for the sound.	₹31,500 ★★★★★
	6		Bang and Olufsen A9 It's big, it's round and it can look like anything you want it to if you put a front cover on it (we personally like the moon look). It also has a sound that's surprisingly good for a speaker of this shape. So essentially, this art has nice music.	₹2,49,990 ★★★★★ BEST FOR DECORATING YOUR LIVING ROOM
NEW	7		Libratone Zipp A fuzzy, cylindrical, colourful AirPlay dock that will deliver detailed, punchy 360° sound anywhere at all, thanks to a built-in battery that gives it four hours of outdoor life. Direct Wi-Fi skills free you from cables, routers and everything but the boogie.	₹29,990 ★★★★★ BEST FOR AL FRESCO PARTIES
	8		Bluesound Multiroom System Fancy a bit of Sonos-style multiroom but with better-than-CD-quality sound thrown in? You want a Bluesound. There are all-in-one speakers, adapters for your existing hi-fi, and a Vault that rips and stores all your CDs. All can handle high-resolution audio.	from ₹45,000 ★★★★★
	9		Cambridge Audio Minx Xi It might not look all that fancy, but the Minx Xi is like that micro system you had at uni, only it gobbles internet music rather than Rage Against The Machine CDs. Just add a pair of quality speakers (try Wharfedale Diamond 220s) and you've got a great hi-fi.	₹55,500 ★★★★★
	10		Harman Kardon Aura Similar in looks to the Soundsticks it just replaced in this hallowed list of lists, the Harman Kardon Aura is a one-piece Bluetooth/Wi-Fi/Auxiliary speaker that looks the part and sounds pretty neat, too.	₹34,990 ★★★★★

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Ultra Hard Coat
Easy Install
Full Touch Sensitivity
Impact Cushioning
Easy Clean Surface



HOT BUY 1		AKG K451 They've actually been around a little while now, but what's put the K451 on-ears back on to our radar is a real world price of about ₹4999. For that money, they're unbeatable – awesomely agile and punchy sound wrapped up in a subtly stylish and foldable design. Add both standard and three-button control cables for maximising compatibility and there's practically no excuse for not getting brilliant sound from your phone.	STUFF SAYS Fantastic sound and great portability at an almost unbeatable price. The perfect PMP upgrade ₹4999 ★★★★★
NEW 2		Philips Fidelio M1 MkII Your commute deserves a quality soundtrack, and second-generation Fidelio M1 headphones give you precisely that. There's oodles of detail to the sound and they punch harder than the Hulk. Beats and their ilk can't touch them.	₹10,999 ★★★★★
3		Bowers & Wilkins P3 Superb sound and a solid and achingly stylish design make these the best portable on-ears around. The fact that two cables come in the box – one with a mic and remote for iPhones, one without – only sweetens the already candy floss-like deal.	₹16,500 ★★★★★ BEST FOR ON-EAR EXCELLENCE
4		SoundMagic E10S This is actually the third version of SoundMagic's awesome, affordable in-ears – not that you'd tell by looking. They sound even better, though: a little smoother and more refined, with tight, weighty bass. Plus there's now a mic and button for smartphone use.	₹2349 ★★★★★
5		Logitech Ultimate Ears 900 Okay, these in-ears cost as much as your average flagship smartphone. Okay, they're rather tiny and you might feel stupid paying that kind of money for so little. But thanks to quad-armature drivers, these are the most detailed in-ears we've ever heard. No kidding.	₹34,995 ★★★★★
NEW 6		Philips Fidelio M2BT Building on the award-winning M1BT, Philips has added NFC for its new wireless Bluetooth headphones and swapped the dark blue design for an understated black finish. The smart built-in controls and rich sound performance remain.	₹14,990 ★★★★★ BEST FOR GREAT SOUND WITH NO WIRES
7		Bose QuietComfort 25 The best kind of silence is the kind you then fill with sweet, sweet music, and that's what the QuietComfort 25s give you. The active noise-cancelling quells office hubbub, air-conditioning and aeroplane hum, and delivers cracking sound in its place.	₹21,263 ★★★★★ BEST FOR SHUTTING OUT THE WORLD
8		Audio-Technica M50x In their limited edition avatar, these extremely talented cans from AT are a tantalizing mix of style and sound. They'll handle almost every genre of music thrown at them. Tight bass, exceptional detail and a competitive price make these a superb package.	₹14,500 ★★★★★
9		Sennheiser Momentum Classily styled, cushion-comfortable and smooth-sounding, the Momentums are the perfect pair of over-ears for the dapper man about town. New! An On-Ear version – smaller, cheaper at ₹14,990, and available in pink, blue, green and, um, ivory/brown.	₹24,990 ★★★★★ BEST FOR QUALITY AND STYLE IN ONE
10		PSB M4U2 Yes, the M4U2s have got great noise-cancelling, but that's only half the story. Using the built-in amp produces a sound that's almost unbelievably punchy, clean and exciting. They might be a bit heavy, but that audio quality really is worth the weight.	₹26,500 ★★★★★ BEST FOR SHUTTING OUT THE WORLD

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<div>HOT BUY</div> <div>1</div> 	<p>Sony BDP-S490 A quite remarkable device, this Sony sounds great, has a wonderful picture in 2D or 3D and is crammed with on-demand content including Sony's own Movies Unlimited. It's also one of the most value-for-money Blu Ray players you can buy today, and highlights Sony's complete and total dominance over the technology. It does lack video upscaling, but you don't really need it yet, and the important thing is that it does 1080p extremely well.</p>	<p>STUFF SAYS The only choice for serious TV, movie or sport addicts, this Sony is the Blu-Ray player you need ₹13,990 ★★★★★</p>
<div>2</div> 	<p>Yamaha YSP-2500 If your only requirement for a soundbar is that it should sound better than your telly, almost any will do; but if you want one that will fool your ears into thinking they're surrounded by actual speakers, you want the amazingly clever Yamaha YSP-2500.</p>	<p>₹1,09,990 ★★★★★</p>
<div>3</div> 	<p>Sony BDV-N990 The biggest bargain in home cinema, the Blu-ray -packing N990 has a massive spec but a micro price. Picture and sound are excellent, Sony's smart services are immense and its stylish curves and touch-sensitive controls add a dash of premium quality. Brilliant.</p>	<p>₹34,990* ★★★★★ BEST FOR AWESOME ALL-IN-ONE VALUE</p>
<div>4</div> 	<p>BenQ W1400 What's better than <i>Inception</i>? <i>Inception</i> on a 300in screen, that's what. How do you get a 300in screen in your house? You buy the BenQ W1400. If your lounge isn't quite that big it can also project an 84in image from just 2m away. Try finding an 84in TV for ₹1.5lac.</p>	<p>₹1,50,000 ★★★★★</p>
<div>5</div> 	<p>Panasonic DMP-BDT220 It's not the most extravagantly specified Blu-ray player around (though Panasonic's remote-control app is a joy), but the BDT220 has the sort of picture- and sound quality to make its price look like a misprint. And that's our favourite kind of mistake.</p>	<p>₹13,990 ★★★★★ BEST FOR BLU-RAY ON A BUDGET</p>
<div>6</div> 	<p>Marantz UD7007 Pricey like an Aston Martin is pricey and about as satisfying to own, this Marantz can play any disc you like, streams music at high-def resolutions and can withstand an earthquake. If you really, really take movies and music seriously, this is your player.</p>	<p>₹69,900 ★★★★★ BEST FOR THE ULTIMATE IN QUALITY</p>
<div>7</div> 	<p>Sonos Playbar A characteristically Sonos take on the soundbar, the Playbar hooks up to your TV via its single optical input and fills your room with a big, detailed sound. And as with all Sonos kit, it can stream your own music files and more as part of a multiroom system.</p>	<p>₹60,000* ★★★★★ BEST FOR STREAMING MUSIC</p>
<div>8</div> 	<p>B&W Panorama 2 Let's put aside the gimmicks for a second and consider what's most important: the sound. That's where the Panorama 2 wins. You get a direct and focused sound, clear dialogue and beautiful design and build, although this is all very expensive.</p>	<p>₹2,11,500 ★★★★★ BEST FOR PREMIUM SOUND</p>
<div>9</div> 	<p>Amkette EVO TV AC/MC Still quite similar to the old Evo TV, the AC (Android Central) and MC (Media Centre) smart up your dumb TV just like before, and let you access Android and all its apps straight on your TV. They're also much cheaper now.</p>	<p>₹5500 / ₹6500 ★★★★★ BEST FOR SMARTING UP A DUMB TV</p>
<div>10</div> 	<p>Microsoft Xbox 360 The Xbox One will be more media-centric than ever before, but looks like it'll require a post-launch firmware update to really shine. We'll be testing the One's media skills soon, but for now the 360 with its Windows Media Server is still a slick streamer.</p>	<p>from ₹15,990 ★★★★★ BEST FOR MULTIMEDIA FUN</p>



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**HOT
BUY****1****LG 55EC930T**

Self-illuminating OLED (organic light-emitting diode) screens used to be full of potential but were criminally expensive. No longer. Behold this curved LG marvel which, for the most part, is no thicker than a pane of glass and verging on affordable. The levels of contrast and dynamism are a revelation. No, it's not 4K. But when 1080p Full HD looks this good, you won't be counting pixels – and it'll be some time before you'll be able to feed your TV a 4K-heavy diet anyway.

STUFF SAYS

4K and millions of pixels might be the future, but this LG OLED is the most amazing TV of right now

₹3,59,900 ★★★★★

2**Samsung UA55HU7200**

Finally, a 4K TV that can be recommended without hesitation, plus it's just as good as a Full HD TV when playing 1080p stuff. Chuck in all of Samsung's usual smart TV whizzbang, remove the silly motion-sensing controls and you've got a real star.

₹2,36,500
★★★★★

3**Sony KDL-50W800B**

4K a bit too new-fangled (or pricey) for you? How about a 50in edge-lit LED LCD with all of Sony's smart features for just over a lakh? It's not even like picture quality's been sacrificed – this is an absolute corker of a telly in every way.

₹1,12,900
★★★★★

**BEST FOR
AFFORDABLE
BRILLIANCE**

4**Sony KDL-32W700B**

There's nothing wrong with sticking with a smaller TV, but you should still make sure you pick a good 'un. This 32in Sony is the best, in terms of both picture performance and features, which include 1080p resolution and all the smart stuff you can handle.

₹44,900
★★★★★

**BEST FOR
A SMALLER
SCREEN**

5**Samsung UA65HU9000**

Till now, you had to choose between curved and 4K. But Samsung believes in packing your TV set full of features, so the HU9000 is the first curved 4K TV. And at 65in, it's also huge. Fun times ahead.

₹4,25,000
★★★★★

**BEST FOR
CURVES AND
4K**

6**Sony KD-55X8500B**

If you want to jump on the 4K bandwagon with Sony you could go for the wedge-shaped X9, which is great, but we'd suggest that this slimmer, less intrusive 'entry-level' option is an even better buy. It's still got all the smart stuff and great performance.

₹2,34,900
★★★★☆

7**LG 42LB750T**

The performance is very good, but what makes this 42in LG really special is its webOS user interface, which treats all sources, apps, recordings and live broadcasts equally, getting you to the content you want to watch quicker. And isn't that what a TV is for?

₹81,900
★★★★☆

8**Panasonic TH-42AS610**

It's not the prettiest, it's not the smartest, and with just two HDMI inputs, it's not the most connected TV about, but there's a really simple, intuitive OS pulling the strings here – and a performance that's very strong given the price and 42in size.

₹59,900
★★★★☆

9**LG 55UB950T**

LG's 4K flagship looks gorgeous with 4K content, but the real story here is the Web OS interface, which finally gives a boot up the bottom of TV UIs. This is by far the most pleasant, colourful, multi-task-friendly and downright fun TV there's ever been.

₹2,19,900
★★★★☆

**BEST FOR
MAKING TV
FUN AGAIN**

10**Sony KDL-55W950B**

Sony's 'wedge design' gives greater internal volume, which makes the speakers sound better. The excellent colours, motion and sound quality are all great, but it lacks a wow factor and doesn't have the deepest blacks. There should be discounts, though.

₹1,64,900
★★★★☆






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HOME COMPUTERS

HOT BUY	1		Apple iMac Other than regular power upgrades and a bit of slimming, the iMac has been largely unchanged for a while, but it does now run Apple's lovely Yosemite OS. There's also now a more affordable version and an eye-wateringly expensive 4K model.	from ₹91,900 ★★★★★	BEST FOR ALL-ROUND BRILLIANCE
	2		Apple Mac Mini This tiny PC is still one of the most capable devices in the size group, and is intelligently priced as well. You are going to need to plug in the keyboard, mouse and monitor, but it's a convenient little device that you could slip into your backpack if you need to.	from ₹36,990 ★★★★★	BEST FOR COMPACT POWER
	3		Alienware X51 (2014) The X51 hasn't changed a huge amount, but the wee size matched with powerful components make it perfectly suited to HD gaming. Steam Machines are going to liven this market up but right now it's the best balance of power and form in PC land.	₹tba ★★★★★	
	4		Raspberry Pi Model B+ It's a fully functioning PC that's barely bigger than a credit card, and now it's a little more flexible than before thanks to two extra USB ports and better power management. Don't expect a 'proper' computer - this is for tinkerers after a fun new project.	from ₹2875 ★★★★☆	
	5		Lenovo IdeaCentre A720 The A720's stand mechanism allows that lumbering 27in screen to lie flat, which is ideal for multi-user access to its 10-point multitouch. A quad-core i7 processor gives it plenty of power although the peripherals don't feel quite as well made as we'd like.	from ₹99,990 ★★★★☆	

GAMES CONSOLES

HOT BUY	1		Sony PlayStation 4 It may not quite be the finished article, but this is the best games machine on the planet. It has whisper-quiet operation, a sleek form and bags of power, with full 1080p on all titles and not a whiff of lag. When proper media streaming arrives, it'll be unstoppable.	₹39,990 ★★★★★	
	2		Microsoft Xbox One This is very different to the Xbox One of 2013. Most significantly, the unpopular Kinect feature is now out of the deal, allowing Microsoft to drop the price and releasing enough extra power for developers to make their games look and play better.	₹39,990 ★★★★★	
	3		Microsoft Xbox 360 Yes, it's been succeeded by the One, but the years have been kind to the 360. With an amazing catalogue of recent games that use its full potential, brilliant media streaming skills and a low, low price it's impossible not to recommend it to cash-strapped gamers.	from ₹15,990 ★★★★★	BEST FOR BUDGET GAMING
	4		Sony PlayStation 3 The PS3 has been around a while but, like the Xbox 360, that just means it has plenty of great games. Online gaming via PlayStation Network is still brilliant and still free, and it's worth buying for its Blu-ray and media streaming alone.	from ₹16,990 ★★★★★	
	5		Nintendo 3DS XL The 3D effect may be a gimmick that hasn't paid off, but put that to one side and the 3DS is still the king of the portable games machines. The XL is the biggest version yet, and there's now a massive catalogue of inventive dual-screen games to play.	₹22,990 ★★★★☆	

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SLRs

HOT BUY	1		Olympus OM-D E-M1 The Olympus flagship is armed with the same excellent 16.3MP sensor as its predecessor the E-M5, but has an improved autofocus system, a startlingly good electronic viewfinder and masses of direct controls. Also look out for the E-M10.	₹1,05,000 (body only) ★★★★★	
	2		Canon EOS 700D Look, it's a new Canon at No2. No, wait, it's the old one. Actually, it's kind of both. The 700D is a minor upgrade over the 650D, keeping its 18MP sensor, flip-out touchscreen and autofocus during video and adding little beyond a new kit lens. Still great, though.	₹43,995 (body only) ★★★★★	BEST FOR ALL-ROUND VALUE
	3		Sony A6000 Sony's new system camera may be tiny but it packs a big photographic punch. There may be no optical image stabilisation but the incredible speed and accuracy of the A6000's autofocus is a real highlight, as is its large, clear electronic viewfinder.	₹40,990 (body only) ★★★★★	
	4		Nikon D810 The top-end Nikon D810 is a monster camera. Its image quality and performance are hard to fault – if you're a serious photographer willing to stump up the cash then it's a fantastic buy. However, there are some features missing, such as 4K video and Wi-Fi.	₹1,99,950 (body only) ★★★★★	
	5		Sony A7R We love this camera. It's light weight but tough and delivers results that outstrip pretty much any other compact system camera on the market. It has a huge full-frame 36.4MP sensor and noise-suppression. Your wallet might weep, but your photo album will sing.	₹1,24,990 (body only) ★★★★★	

COMPACT CAMERAS

HOT BUY	1		Sony DSC-HX60 2014's HX60 isn't a huge departure from its predecessor in terms of its build quality, ease of use, specifications and 30x zoom lens – all of which are excellent. What it does add is NFC and a newer Bionz X processor, making it a slightly nipper performer.	₹22,990 ★★★★★	
	2		Sony DSC-RX100 III If you're looking for the best tiny snapper around, this is it. Excellent image quality, fast autofocus, a useful electronic viewfinder and professional video recording, all squeezed into a truly teeny package that'll fit into your jeans pocket. We're smitten.	₹54,990 ★★★★★	
	3		Fujifilm FinePix X100S Fujifilm's souped up its fixed-lens retro shooter, with faster focusing and a big APS-C sensor. It's not all new, though, keeping the 35mm-equivalent f/2 lens and hybrid viewfinder from the X100. A less retro version with black finish is now available too.	₹74,999 ★★★★★	
	4		Canon PowerShot G16 The G16 packs a lot into its sturdy body: optical viewfinder, loads of manual controls and an f1.8-2.8, 28-140mm (equivalent) zoom lens. Upgrades over the G15 include Wi-Fi and faster burst shooting of up to 12fps, while image quality is as good as ever.	₹31,995 ★★★★★	
	5		Nikon Coolpix AW120 The ultimate rugged camera: almost indestructible, and fit for temperatures as low as -10°C, it will even survive a rinse cycle in your dishwasher. The AW120 also takes lovely pictures and impressive video in both good lighting and dimmer conditions.	₹17,950 ★★★★★	BEST FOR EXTREME EXPLOITS

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HOT
BUY

1



Apple MacBook Air (2014)

The 2014 MacBook Air update means that, once again, our favourite old laptop is now our favourite new laptop. Nothing's changed on the outside, and under the skin there's just a slight processor boost from 1.3GHz to 1.4GHz. But combined with a slight price cut, we're happy with the overall package. The very top model, which comes with a 256GB SSD, is now just ₹86,900. All of this means that the MacBook Air stays atop the charts for a while longer.

STUFF SAYS

It isn't a major upgrade, but the slightly improved spec and lowered price make all the difference here

from ₹65,900 ★★★★★

2



Apple MacBook Pro with Retina Display 13in (2013)

We're all agreed that the best laptop is a MacBook, but choosing between Air and Pro is getting steadily harder. Both now run on Haswell chips, but the Pro is faster. It also gets a 4K-capable Thunderbolt 2 port, and then there's that Retina screen. Tough call.

from
₹99,900
★★★★★

BEST FOR
EVERYTHING
BAR THE PRICE

3



Microsoft Surface Pro 3

At last, Microsoft has delivered on the promise of the tablet-cum-laptop hybrid. It proves there's space in the world for a design that's more productive than an iPad or Galaxy Note, but easier to hump around than a traditional laptop.

from
₹61,267*
★★★★★

BEST FOR
USING
ANYWHERE

4



Alienware 17

A brute of a machine in every way, the Alienware 17 weighs as much as four MacBook Airs and probably frags harder than 10 of them. Core i7 Haswell processor at 3.4GHz, Nvidia GeForce graphics, up to 32GB of RAM... Our trigger finger's already itching.

from
₹1,42,390
★★★★★

BEST FOR
SERIOUS
GAMERS

5



Asus Zenbook UX302

Asus has done a wonderful job of creating an ultra-slim laptop that's as far removed from Apple's influence as possible, while maintaining a stylish and unique aesthetic. The 13.3in display is razor-sharp and colourful – this is our favourite Ultrabook.

₹99,999
★★★★☆

6



Lenovo Yoga Pro 3

The third entry in the Yoga Pro line refines the laptop/tablet hybrid design with a power-sipping new Intel Core M processor plus slimmness and style to make even the MacBook Air look worried. And you can stand it up like a tent. If you want.

₹1,14,990
★★★★☆

7



HP Chromebook 14

HP is the latest manufacturer to take on the Chromebook and has done a fine job, making it small, light and everything a neo-netbook should be. It's still no powerhouse, but a better display and slicker media playback won us over. It even charges via USB.

₹26,990
★★★★★

BEST FOR
VALUE AND
PORTABILITY

8



Acer C720 Chromebook

Bargain Chromebooks are everywhere right now, but the C720 stands out even so. It's well made, well specced (for a Chromebook) and crucially, has proper ports: HDMI, USB3.0 and SD are all here. The HP at No.7 is prettier, but the Acer's the one we'd buy.

₹22,990
★★★★☆

9



Acer Aspire S7

The Aspire S7 is almost the perfect Ultrabook – it matches the MacBook Air for weight, beats it for slimmness by 6mm, and has a gorgeous 1920x1080 touch-friendly screen. Only its battery, which lasted a mere 5hrs on test, prevents it getting that fifth star.

₹1,02,999
★★★★☆

BEST FOR
TOUCHY-FEELY
WINDOWS 8

10



Asus Taichi

This Win8 hybrid sticks a live tile-friendly touchscreen on top of a full laptop sporting Core i7 innards. You know how the saying goes: why settle for one 11.6in HD screen when you can have two?

₹1,39,999
★★★★☆

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HOT
BUY

1

**Far Cry 4** PC/PS3/Xbox 360/PS4/Xbox One

Another holiday doesn't quite go to plan in Ubisoft's latest open-world adventure, now with added elephants. *Far Cry 4*'s principle attraction is most certainly its campaign, which is easily the best thing about it. The land of Kyrat is a vast and beautiful playground and players have every reason to get lost in it. Bigger, better and more beautiful than ever, *Far Cry 4* is a glorious timesink. We suggest you answer its call...

STUFF SAYS

This franchise only keeps getting better, and the open world environment is among the best we've ever seen

★★★★★

2

**Grand Theft Auto V** PS3/PS4/Xbox One/Xbox 360

There's a lot about *Grand Theft Auto 5* that remains unchanged, but on the new-gen machines, it's a fantastic experience like never before. The crazy world of Los Santos offers enough thrills to keep gamers coming back for more and more.

★★★★★

3

**The Last Of Us Remastered** PS3/PS4

Now remastered for PS4, this is the best zombie-apocalypse game ever. It looks magnificent and plays even better, with a moving story and frights aplenty. It's tough... but then a real-life zombie apocalypse would be. Think of this as essential prep.

★★★★★

BEST FOR
ZOMBIFIED
HORROR

4

**Forza Horizon 2** Xbox One

This is everything an open-world driving game should be. There's loads to do and it captures the feeling of driving very fast better than any other racing game, to the point where *Forza Horizon 2* could soon eclipse its older brother once and for all.

★★★★★

5

**Destiny** PS4/Xbox One

This isn't for everyone, and those hoping for an epic *Halo*-style campaign may be disappointed. But in every other way, *Destiny* is on a bigger, far more multiplayer level, and with the added addictive quest for loot like *Diablo* – an irresistible combination.

★★★★★

6

**FIFA 15** PS4/Xbox One

If *FIFA 14* was Barcelona's tiki-taka – death by 1000 passes – then *FIFA 15* is Germany's more explosive World-Cup-winning evolution of it. Harder, faster and stronger: this is a better reflection of modern football than ever before.

★★★★★

NEW

7

**Dying Light** PC/PS4/Xbox One

Far Cry 3 x *Shadow of Mordor* x *Dead Island* = a bloody enjoyable zombie romp. Jumping around rooftops, playing co-op and bludgeoning zombies is all fun. A solid survival horror in an open-world setting, and we've enjoyed the undead company.

★★★★☆

NEW

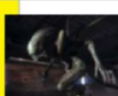
8

**Game of Thrones: A Telltale Game** PC/PS3/Xbox 360/PS4/Xbox One

If you're a fan of Telltale's previous games, George R.R. Martin's novels or the HBO show, you're going to enjoy hanging out in this world and experiencing your own story within it. We have so far, and we're eager to see where Telltale takes it next.

★★★★☆

9

**Alien: Isolation** PC/PS3/Xbox 360/PS4/Xbox One

Finally, the iconic movie monster gets the terrifying game it deserves with *Alien: Isolation*. It's not often you play a game that demands this much concentration to play. It's healthy to be challenged, and we loved it. Mostly.

★★★★☆

10

**Dragon Age: Inquisition** PC/PS3/Xbox 360/PS4/Xbox One

BioWare's fantasy roleplaying series hits its stride in a truly epic third instalment. *Dragon Age: Inquisition* may not be the perfect RPG, but for RPG fans in the PS4 and Xbox One generation it will be precisely the game to keep them company this season.

★★★★☆

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HOT BUY 1		Pebble Steel Unveiled at CES 2014, the Steel keeps the straightforward looks, crisp display and five-day battery life that helped the standard Pebble win our hearts. But it holds more RAM, apps and customisable faces this time, and swaps the plastic for either a 'Steel' silver or matte black stylish suit, making it look and feel more like an actual watch. The Steel goes beyond the gimmicks and into the world of real-world wearable tech. Pop it on your wristwear wish-list.	STUFF SAYS The best smartwatch money can buy... and the original plastic Pebble is still available for a bit less ₹17,500 ★★★★★
2		Fitbit Flex The Flex delivers all of Fitbit's activity-tracking smarts but in a form factor that's less fiddly than its belt-clip counterparts. It's packed with Bluetooth, NFC, vibratamotor and an LED display. See also the new Fitbit Charge, with a full display.	₹9499 ★★★★★
3		Jawbone UP24 Now with Bluetooth for hassle-free syncing, the stylish UP24 is worth the extra bucks over the Jawbone Up. The app introduces new challenges and tracks your sleep patterns. It will also gently nudge you, if you're lazing around, to get back on the move.	₹16,359 ★★★★★
4		Motorola Moto 360 With its iconic, head-turning design, this could be the first wearable you will want to wear. The Moto 360's our favourite and most comfortable Android Wear watch so far, but the battery might make you anxious and it's a few specs short of brilliance.	₹17,999 ★★★★★
5		Philips Hue Pair these smart LED bulbs with 'recipes' on ifttt.com – set them to change colour with the weather or when it's time to run to the train. They also tie in with Philips' own Ambilight TVs, casting the colours from the screen across your entire room..	from ₹5000 ★★★★★☆
6		Roku Streaming Stick 'Streaming Stick' tells you all you need to know, really: this is a stick, and it streams. It streams plenty, too. And unlike Chromecast, it's also a dab hand with your own video and music files. Lovely stuff.	₹4395 ★★★★★☆
7		Misfit Shine The Shine's minimalist exterior redefines fitness trackers. Former Apple CEO and Misfit co-founder John Sculley may have something to do with that. Plus, its fitness and sleep monitoring skills are solid, and a button cell means no recharging. Perfect.	₹9990 ★★★★★☆
8		Google Chromecast This USB memory-stick-sized cord-cutter is compatible with YouTube, Google Play movies and more: a cheap, simple way of getting web-sourced movies and shows onto your living-room TV.	₹2999 ★★★★★☆
9		Samsung Gear Live Could it be fourth time lucky for Android Wear? A waterproof 1.63in Super AMOLED screen, a resting heart monitor and a growing selection of apps all say yes. Its pitiful one-day battery life lets it down, though.	₹15,900 ★★★★★☆
10		TomTom Multi-Sport Cardio The new version of the TomTom Multi-Sport adds an impressively accurate heart-rate sensor to an already strong formula, allowing for more focused and personal training. It'll track runs, cycles and swims, and the companion app is also much improved.	₹25,000* ★★★★★☆

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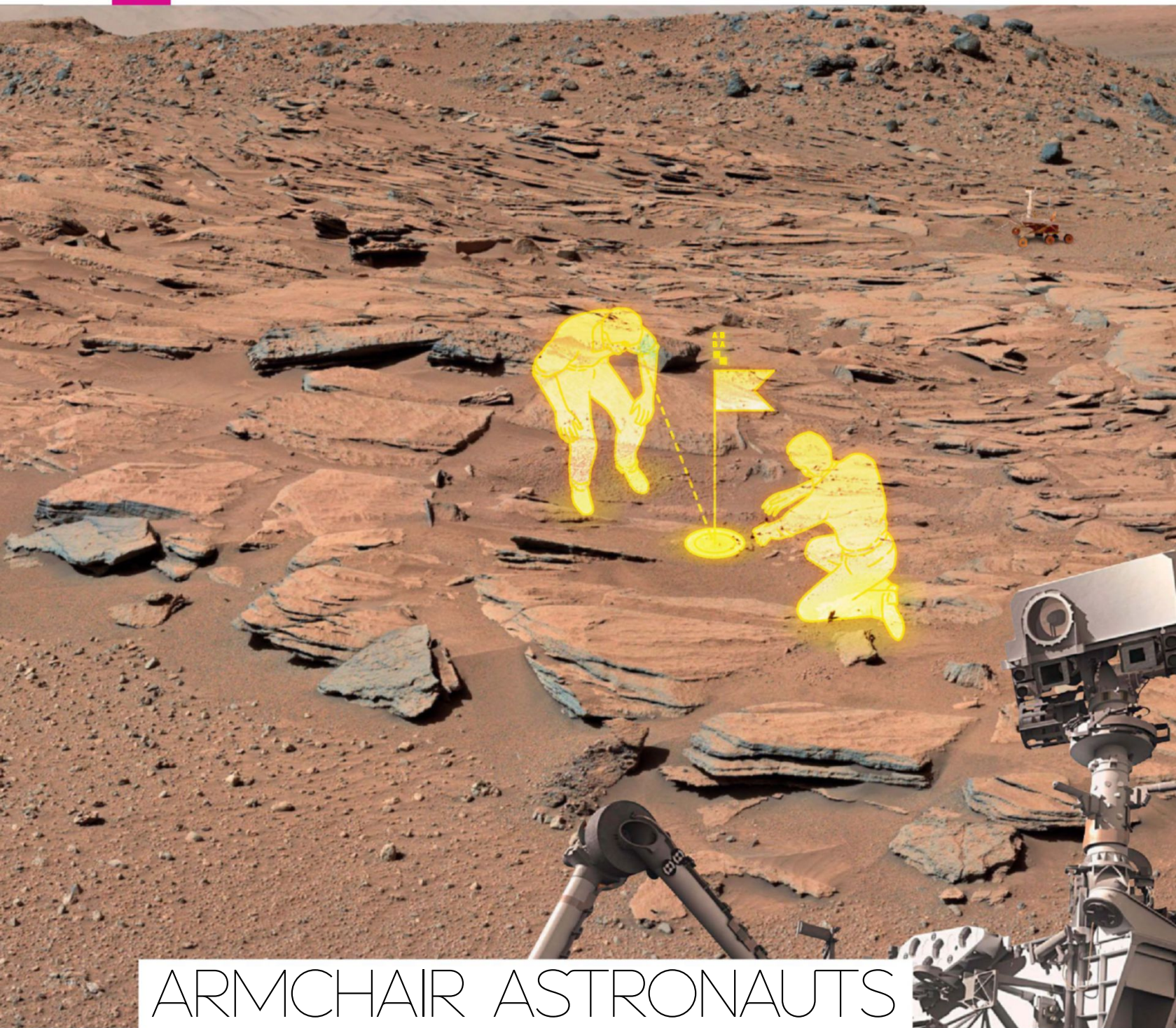
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NEXT BIG THING?



ARMCHAIR ASTRONAUTS

Finally built that wormhole, then? Almost. My DIY store's just run out of one crucial ingredient: exotic matter. Once that's back in stock, I'll be all set for *Through The Keyhole*. "What type of person keeps a wormhole in their shed?", Loyd will say. "David, it's over to you." Of course, David (reincarnated as a hologram) will point out that traversable wormholes are probably impossible. But we can still cheat. For example, NASA's just made an incredible application for Microsoft's HoloLens called OnSight. Instead of teleporting humans to Mars, it brings Mars to geologists...

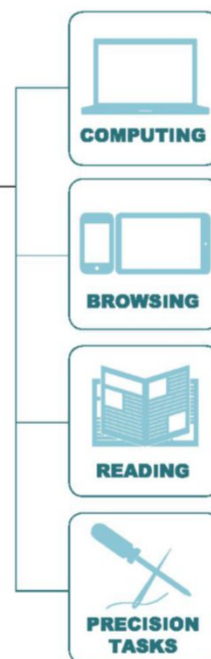
Wow, geologists must have big offices. Well, that's the clever thing about OnSight — scientists don't need a big room, or even to be in the same room, to do a team study of Mars surface. OnSight crunches together data and images from the Mars Curiosity Rover, builds a 3D simulation of the terrain, and uses HoloLens AR glasses to overlay it onto the wearer's point of view. They'll be able to stroll around the rocky surface, read the story of the landscape, and see their colleagues appear as avatars. Gesture controls will let them pick the best spot. Manned space missions suddenly seem quite quaint.

Sounds like great news, if you're a leading planetary geologist.

To be fair, they do have to stare at rocks all day. Besides, the best thing about OnSight is its potential for non-Martian applications. Fancy turning your bedroom into the Tate Modern? Playing *Minecraft* on your coffee table? Hanging out with dinosaurs in an AR *Jurassic Park*? These could all potentially follow NASA's OnSight tests in late 2015. There's no reason Mars tours couldn't one day be opened up to Joe Public either. In other words, the departure lounge for space tourism could soon be, er, your lounge.

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE! ON SALE 1 MAY

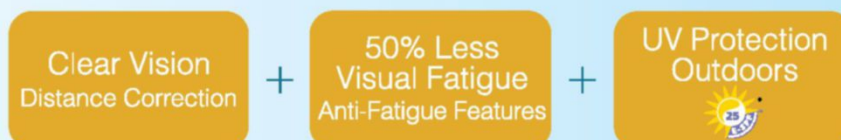
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